

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, December 18, 1986

Published Since 1877

## The world needs Christmas

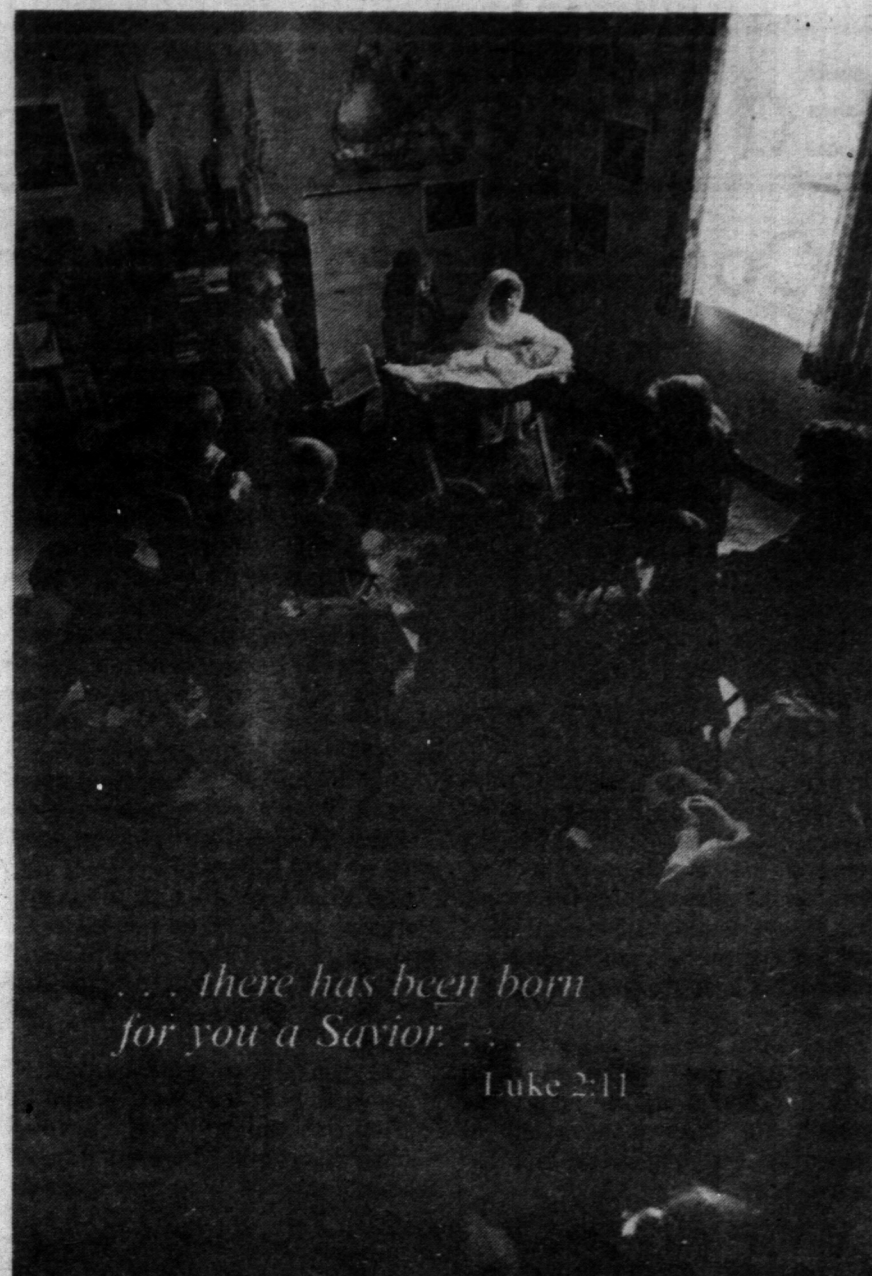


The world needs Christmas; a din  
Of hatred fills the air.  
The filth of sin has settled,  
Like black dust, everywhere,  
While greed and selfish grasping  
Everywhere abound.  
There's wickedness and vileness  
Wherever man is found.

The world needs Christmas; oh,  
It needs to go to Bethlehem,  
There to kneel before the manger  
With the shepherds and wise men.  
Our world needs the light of hope  
The Christ of Christmas brings.  
It needs the joy of cleansing  
That his forgiveness brings.

How the world needs to hear  
Of Christ, the Prince of Peace;  
He is the One who alone can make  
Our wars and hatreds cease.  
The world needs Christmas, needs  
To hear its hopeful word;  
And, oh, how much it needs to make  
The Christ of Christmas Lord.

—Lois P. Harlow  
Meridian



... there has been born  
for you a Savior.

Luke 2:11

FORDYCE, ARK. — Sunday school teacher Ellen Vineyard reads the story of the birth of Jesus as it is portrayed by Ryan Weeks, 8, and Jill Graves, 9, during a parent-worker meeting at First Baptist Church here. Photo by Jim Veneman.

## A million by 2000 A.D.

# Venezuelan Baptists serious about hundredfold increase

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A hundredfold increase in Baptist strength in Venezuela "is not a hard challenge," the president of that country's National Baptist Convention insisted.

Paul Eustache said Venezuelan Baptists "across the board" are committed to reaching 1 million members by the year 2000. They currently number 10,000.

Eustache, a layman from Caracas, has served five one-year terms as convention president since 1975. He is an official in the Venezuelan oil company, Corpoven. During a mid-November visit to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here, he spoke unflinchingly of Venezuelan Baptists' million-member goal.

The bold objective emerged during long-range planning in 1979, Eustache said. Previous growth rates, Baptist leaders noted, would yield 50,000 members by 2000, while Venezuela's population will increase to 22 million.

The vision was sparked, Eustache said, by one participant's comments:

"If we have only 50,000 members in our churches, we will not have any influence over the country. We need at

least 1 million people."

Meeting the goal, he noted, "all depends on what we do now" in establishing a plan for growth. Convention leaders have been making sure every program is centered on the concept of outreach, he said.

More than 150 Tennessee Baptists have assisted 40 Caracas-area churches and missions in evangelistic campaigns this year. Four hundred Tennessee volunteers are being enlisted for campaigns next year in 130 Venezuelan congregations throughout the country.

And in return, Venezuelan Baptists plan to send a number of teams to Tennessee in 1988 to witness in primarily Hispanic neighborhoods, Eustache added.

In home missions, the convention provides full support to several church planting couples and about 70 percent support to two dozen missionaries. It also coordinates the work of 150 volunteers, mostly young adults committed to one- to two-year terms.

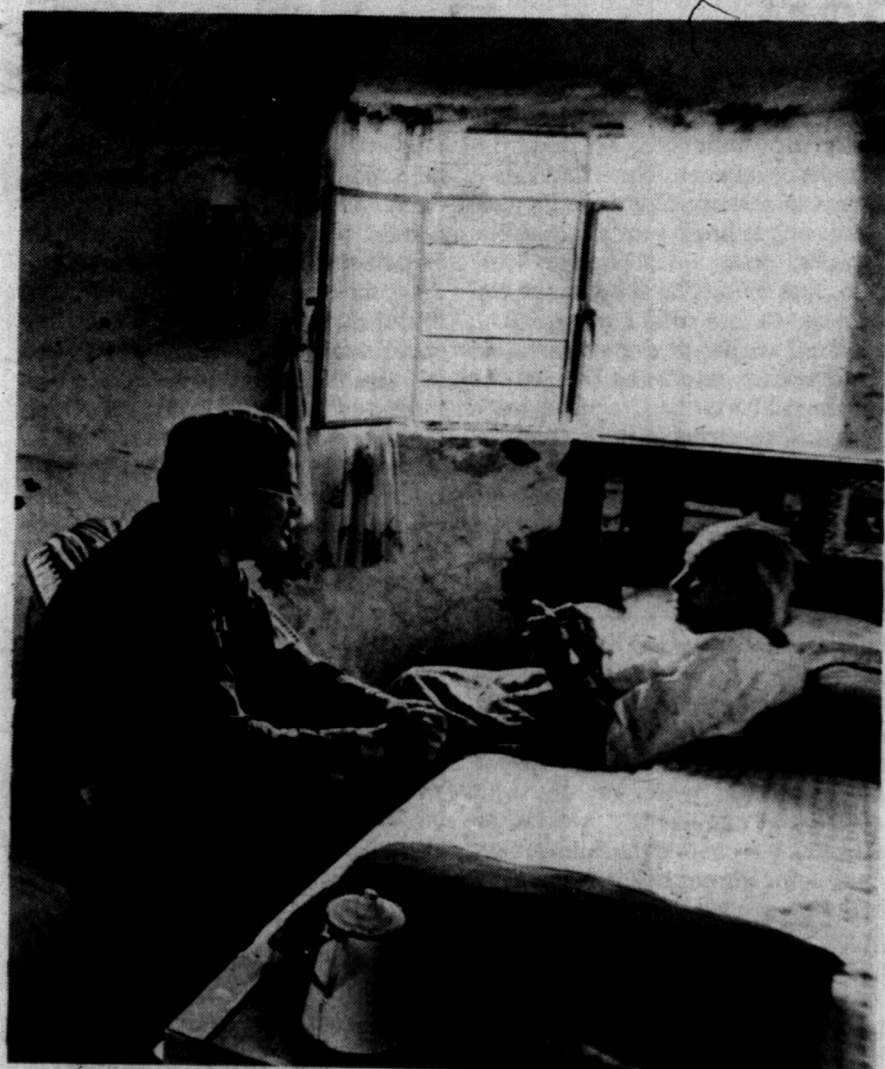
The convention supports two foreign missionary couples, one on the nearby island of Curacao and the other in Bolivia.

Evangelistic marches, over a year's time, involve about 1,000 Venezuelan pastors and lay people. Marches were the essence of the program when it began nearly 10 years ago, but now it includes training sessions for volunteers, witnessing in each target community's commercial district or along its streets, door-to-door visitation and follow-up of converts.

MODIBLA, or Discipleship Movement of Latin America, is a new program for developing church planters from other countries and giving Venezuelans experience as foreign missionaries. The convention matches a couple from another country with a Venezuelan church planting couple for a two-year period. When the visiting couple returns home to start a church, the Venezuelan couple goes with them for a two-year period. Three couples, from Bolivia, Ecuador, and Panama, are the first participants.

Even with all their programs, if Venezuelan Baptists' numbers fall short at the year 2000, Eustache won't fret. "I would not be terribly disappointed," he allowed, "if we didn't reach the 1 million until 2005."

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.



## Making Christ known in Mexico

Lee Baggett, missionary physician in Mexico, visits an elderly patient during a mobile clinic launched from a base at the Mexican-American Hospital in Guadalajara, Mexico. The medical caravans, which set up in host churches, take Bibles and Christian books as well as medicine. One ministry complements the other. Team members witness as well as administer medical treatment. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering already has provided a pickup truck to take the medical team and equipment over rough roads. If this year's goal is met another \$1,500 will help with the clinic's operation. (FMB) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## Considerations for the season

After 12 Christmas editorial thoughts over the same number of years in this capacity in two states, different ideas are not plentiful. There is one scripture, however, that continues to be intriguing, though it is never used as a Christmas scripture. It is in the first chapter of John's gospel, the 14th verse: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Though that is not one of the beautiful, traditional passages of scripture generally associated with the birth of Christ, it has a beauty all its own. From looking back at the first verse of that chapter and looking ahead to the third chapter, we realize that the everlasting and eternal Word took on human form to live among mankind in order to carry out God's plan of redemption.

That is the message of Christmas. Jesus may not have been born on Dec. 25. That is not the point. The reason for the observation of Christmas is to point out the fact that he was born.

The world has established for itself a holiday observation which has been attached to Christmas but molded into holiday festivities that have nothing to do with Christmas. This worldly holiday involves drinking and parties and an enormous, uncontrolled spree of gift giving; and a part of that observation that is held concurrently with Christmas is that we have yielded to secular demands as to how the observation will be carried out.

Then we get into fusses with the world because we feel that our observation has been circumscribed.

It is too late to do anything about that. It is not too late for us to give thought to what it is that we are observing with Christmas.

The giving of gifts is all right. Perhaps we discipline ourselves to give only needed gifts. Even the parties are all right. They promote interpersonal relationships that are needed.

The drinking we can do without. So what is it that we observe at Christmas? Simply, it is the birth of Christ. It is simple to say, but it is not a simple concept. With the exception

of the resurrection, it was the single most important event in the history of mankind.

The calendar for all the world was divided according to the time of his birth.

As an aside, it is difficult to understand the furor over using Christian symbols in observation of Christmas when the division for computing time for everyone on earth is counted from the time of Christ's birth.

So we Christians can say to ourselves and to each other: it is our holiday. We will enjoy it, and more than likely we will observe it to some great extent in the same fashion as do those about us who are not Christian.

But let's not forget what it is. Let's not forget to give thought to the tremendous significance the birth of Christ has had on all the world and on all of history.

It is our holiday. We can't keep others from taking a holiday if they want to and observing it in any manner that they please.

Let's just be sure that we remember what Christmas means and conduct

## Haywood N. Stubble

"IF YOU'D BE WILLING TO TAKE A LOWER PROFILE, WE COULD RAISE MORE MONEY FOR MISSIONS!"

JOE MCKEEVER



ourselves in our observation of it in such a manner that we can say it means something to us.

It is a glorious holiday. It is a

beautiful time of the year. It is a beautiful observation when it is conducted in the right spirit. It is a time

(Continued on page 9)

## Guest opinion . . .

## A time of the heart

By Irene Martin

It begins in July. Maybe it's the sweltering heat of a Mississippi summer with visions of cooler days that are sure to come. Maybe it's the good intention to avoid the last minute rush and really get organized this year.

"We need to draw names for Christmas." "Don't give me all men this year. They're so hard to buy for." "We don't give anybody. This is a perfectly legitimate drawing."

"Can I bring something besides pecan pie? I don't make good pies." "Sure, bring a 20 lb. rib roast." "Never mind, I'll practice on my pies!"

Some of us are together in September, but we forget; and finally, with Thanksgiving upon us, two of us prepare 92 names and draw them from a boiler (eyes shut!). They are Mama, her children, their spouses; her grandchildren, their spouses, and the world's smartest and most beautiful great-grandchildren. About five years ago, it occurred to us that it was a little much for our then 82-year old mother to do all the cooking; so, along with a list of the names, a menu is sent to each household.

What is Christmas? Christmas is love. Christmas is music, oh, it is music. It is Lottie Moon. It is remembering those less fortunate than we. I've only spent one Christmas away from home. It was

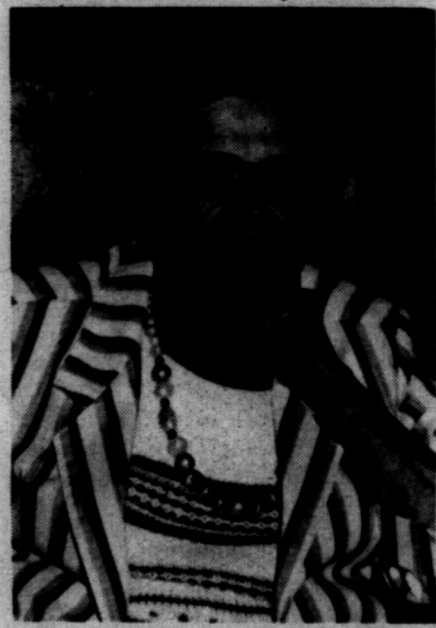
then I learned Christmas is not something that automatically happens December 25. It was then that I learned how deeply ingrained are those traditions that shape our lives.

I stand back and admire my handiwork. The dining room, which will seat 26, is aglow with red goblets, white china, and red and white decorations. I have put the finishing touches all over the house where I was born, where my father was born, and where my grandparents began life with a land grant by President Martin Van Buren. There will be 10 in the living room, 16 in the large bedroom, eight in another bedroom, and six or eight in still another bedroom. It is not that difficult for me to prepare place cards and seating for 65 to 68 (two or three will not come for some reason, but one or two will bring an unexpected guest.) The problem is that we shift in ages from year to year. One year we may have more teenagers, and they like to be together. Mothers with babies must be near a bed. So I arrange on paper, scratch through, and rearrange.

My brother's family of 23 from New York will not come. This year Mama will fly there to spend a few days with them, returning for our big day. They have recently lost a son in a tragic ac-

cident. It will be good for them to have her. She is fun to be around. She has about her an air of wisdom and calm assurance; and, more than anything, she is the glue that binds us all together.

It is 10 a.m., and it begins. From that moment on, we have what I call joyous chaos. They come from Hattiesburg and Vicksburg, from Okolona and Alabama, from Jackson and Louisiana. Children's eyes widen at



Mama Burnham

the 14-foot tree in the hall which is sheltering hundreds of brightly-wrapped packages. The kitchen is a beehive of activity. There are six pans of dressing to finish cooking; 150 rolls to be buttered and popped into the oven; just filling glasses with ice and pouring tea is a major operation — and there are people everywhere. One photographer remarked that by the time he got his camera focused, there were different people in the picture.

We ring a bell; everyone is ready. We sing the Doxology enthusiastically, for we realize anew that God has richly blessed this family. There has been no "quiet," and there will not be any more after the prayer of thanksgiving. Through the years we have pretty well perfected the serving of food. Oh, sometimes a glass of tea is spilled, or an excited child trips and drops his food, but it goes rather smoothly; and when no one can possibly eat another bite, we gather in the living room and the dining room where someone has been appointed to read the second chapter of Luke. (Some rather interesting paraphrasing sometimes: "The angel of the Lord came upon them; and, man, the shepherds freaked out!")

The six to 10-year old children will play Swiss Melody bells, and we will sing carols. Then Santa arrives. Some

older children have asked to be his helpers; but the little children want to help, too, and it is a small miracle that each one gets his right gifts.

It is 5 p.m.; and, almost as rapidly as it happened, Christmas is over. Except for those who traveled long distances, everyone has gone. The tree surprisingly does not look deserted but seems to stand proudly and say, "I served them well." The only thing that keeps the house from looking as if a tornado struck is the fact that the roof is still on. There is red velvet cake all over; there are stacks and stacks of dishes and mounds and mounds of ribbon and paper.

It was wonderful. I sit down with a cup of coffee and consider what Christmas means to me. It is my mother and members of my family interwoven in a strong bond of love expressed completely at this time of the year. It is an awesome thing to reflect on my love for these people and realize it is not even comparable to God's love for us when he gave his Son to be born so that we might have eternal life.

What is Christmas? It is a time of the heart.

Irene Martin, who lives at Harpersville, is a Baptist Record staff member and pianist at First Church, Richland.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 110 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 45  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor . . . . . Don McGregor  
Associate Editor . . . . . Tim Nicholas  
Assistant Editor . . . . . Anne McWilliams  
Advertising Coordinator . . . . . Evelyn Keyes  
Editorial Assistant . . . . . Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Assistant . . . . . Renee Walley  
Financial Records . . . . . Betty Anne Bailey  
Computer Operator . . . . . Irene Martin

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Martha Chambless, Oxford; Ferrell O. Cork Jr., Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian, chairman; Odean Puckett, Natchez; Gary Holland, Pascagoula; Joel Haire, Crystal Springs; Ex officio, Evelyn Keyes, Jackson, secretary.

Send news and communications to  
The Editor, Baptist Record  
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, December 18, 1986

Published Since 1877

## Name a "disadvantage"

# Parks asks major changes in FMB structure, strategy

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — President R. Keith Parks has recommended a major administrative reorganization



R. Keith Parks

of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff to "lift Southern Baptists to a whole new level of involvement in global evangelization."

His proposals, presented to the board's trustees Dec. 9, call for a new top-level International Strategy Group with the expertise and authority to plan and carry out a more effective

global strategy.

He also recommended the board's name be changed to International Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to allow greater freedom of operation.

The new name, he said, avoids the "considerable disadvantage" which the words "foreign" and "mission" have in the modern world.

Parks said he hopes the change in the board's name, which would have to be done in consultation with the Southern Baptist Convention, could be made without changing titles on mission properties the board owns overseas.

The reorganization, if approved by the board in February, would take effect March 1.

Parks would chair the new strategy group, with William R. O'Brien, the board's executive vice president, as vice chairman.

Four new vice presidents representing the major continents where Southern Baptists have work would be members of the group. Also on the group would be a vice president for Cooperative Services International, the entity through which Southern Baptists with specific expertise can respond to requests from countries where missionaries cannot work.

Other members of the strategy group would include:

— A vice president for administration and human resources, who would be responsible for worldwide policies relating to missionaries as well as those responsibilities already carried in the office of human resources.

— A director of research related directly to the president who would pull together all research activities now being carried out in various parts of the board.

— The vice president for finance, who would be a resource member at meetings where his expertise is needed.

As part of the plan, the board would set up a well-equipped strategy room, Parks said.

Area directors, now located in Richmond, Va., would live overseas in their geographic areas and have increased authority to make more decisions closer to the scene of the actual work. In addition to their field staff, the directors would maintain an associate area director in Richmond as both a channel and contact point for the home office but would return to Richmond for three of the board's six meetings each year.

"For the whole concept to work, the

(Continued on page 4)

## Christmas schedule

In 1987 there will be 53 Thursdays. Since the Baptist Record's mailing permit calls for 50 issues a year, we will need to skip an additional issue next year. So, in addition to the traditional skip during the week of Christmas this year, we will also skip the first issue in January of 1987. The weeks

for which we will not have papers are Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The next issue of the Baptist Record will be dated Jan. 8, 1987. The editor and staff of the Baptist Record wish for each reader the best of times in the remembrance of the birth of our Savior.



## A gift for Lottie

The bag that Jennings Orr is handing Earl Kelly has in it \$21.27. The bag and the money is a gift from Bogue Chitto (Indian) Baptist Church to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The Indian Church in the New Choctaw Association, has been a recipient of con-

vention board aid and was helped by the Mississippi Campers on Mission in rebuilding recently yet the church remembered the foreign mission offering. Orr is business manager and Kelly is executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Tutoring is real "Perk"

Story and photos by Tim Nicholas

Every Tuesday evening during the school year, a group of students from the Baptist Student Union on the Perkinston campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, travels to Bond to the Deanash campus of the Baptist Children's Village. There, the college students offer tutoring and friendship to the children at the group home.

Seminary intern Tim Glaze, leading the Baptist Student Union at "Perk," says the students never schedule events which would conflict with the tutoring. "We do it faithfully, weekly," says Glaze.

Calvin Pardue of Escatawpa is responsible for enlisting his fellow students for the tutoring program. About seven students go to Bond to work with the 10 children on the campus.

Houseparents Wes and Lavelle Talkington and Inez Dearman say the children look forward to the visits and that the group had the students out for

a picnic at the beginning of the semester. Glaze says the most important part of the ministry is to "be consistent."



A nighttime game of basketball is often part of the fellowship between the "Perk" students and the Village children.



Calvin Pardue of Escatawpa works with a Village resident at Bond on his reading as others gather to hear the story.



Anthony Guy of Ocean Springs (in hat) explains Algebra to a puzzled group of students.



## Pioneer missions needs focus on construction

A number of pioneer volunteer mission needs have been identified by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. These needs are in Ohio, Kentucky, California, and Indiana. Most are for church construction.

Those interested in any of the projects listed here, should contact Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director for Mississippi Baptists at Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, or phone 968-3800. Most of the projects are scheduled for the period between early spring and late summer.

Church names and a brief description of needs follows:

**OHIO:** Lakewood Church, Hebron, needs construction teams for a second unit; Milford Church, Cincinnati, needs construction teams; First Church, Aurora, meets in a library and needs several construction teams for a first unit; Fincastle Church, Sardinia, has an old building that is unsatisfactory and needs construction teams; Mt. Carmel, Defiance, needs

a new building. Ron Martin, Ohio Brotherhood director, reports that in some of the Ohio churches, a local superintendent will be on hand and any Mississippi volunteers will be working alongside Ohio people on the jobs.

**KENTUCKY:** Columbia Church, Columbia; needs a youth mission group in the summer of 1987 to do a Vacation Bible School.

**INDIANA:** Plainfield Church, Plainfield; needs several construction teams for first unit.

**CALIFORNIA:** Emmanuel Church, Sacramento; needs new construction of education unit; Jenness Park, Sonora; build four new cabins and upgrade older ones; 19th Avenue Church, San Francisco; clean and repaint church building; Feather River Church, Marysville; Coachella Spanish Church, Coachella; needs new education and fellowship building. Other possible California projects include new buildings at First Church, Hopland and Filipino Church, Vallejo, and California Baptist College needs remodeling.



### Clarke books

As part of the activities at Clarke College's Alumni Homecoming and Preview Day on Nov. 22, John T. Carter, dean of the Samford School of Education and former Clarke student, presented Mrs. Lynn Baker, Clarke's librarian and James Read, Clarke's dean, with volume 30,000 and 30,001 for the Sanders Memorial Library. The titles of these two books are *The Ancient Near East in Pictures* and *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*.

## First, Jackson, leads state in church study course awards

**NASHVILLE** — First Church, Jackson, led all Mississippi churches and ranked 16th in the Southern Baptist Convention with 750 study course awards for 1985-86, statistics show.

Alta Woods Church, Jackson, was second in the state with 597 awards, and First Church, Olive Branch, was third with 565, according to statistics compiled in the church study course records office at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mississippi's Hinds-Madison Association ranked seventh among SBC associations with 5,407 awards.

Florida led all states in total church study course awards with 77,605 earned. Texas ran a close second with 77,294 awards.

Union and Tarrant associations in Texas ranked first and second, respectively, among the top 25 associations with 7,793 and 6,879 awards.

First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla., led all SBC churches in awards with 1,640.

For the year, the number of persons enrolled in the study course system rose eight percent over last year, an increase of 55,722 to 761,102.

Awards granted in the evangelism and witnessing study courses showed the largest increase with a 33,646 or 153 percent jump over last year.

The number of leadership diplomas granted reached 33,203, up six percent over last year.

## 1986 baptisms increase, reversing 4-year decline

By Jim Newton

**ATLANTA (BP)** — Preliminary reports indicate Southern Baptist churches baptized 364,000 new believers during 1986, ending a four-year decline in the number of baptisms reported.

If the projections are correct, baptisms reported by SBC churches will increase about 13,000, or four percent, over the 351,071 baptisms of 1985.

The statistics were announced during the annual national conference for Southern Baptist evangelism directors in a report presented by Clay Price, director of program research for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Price said his statistics were based on reports from the state evangelism directors, with all but one state reporting.

The reports indicate baptisms increased in 26 of the 37 Baptist state conventions and decreased in 11 states, Price said. In contrast, 31 of the 37 state conventions reported decreases in 1985.

Ten of the 21 state conventions reported increases of more than 10 percent, Price said. Those states were Puerto Rico, 50 percent; New York, 47 percent; Minnesota-Wisconsin, 36 percent; New England, 33 percent; District of Columbia, 30 percent; Hawaii, 29 percent; Northern Plains, 15 percent; West Virginia, 14 percent; and Missouri, 11 percent.

Robert L. Hamblin, evangelism vice president for the Home Mission Board, expressed gratitude to God for the increase, saying he believed it was a reversal of a trend toward a decline in baptisms.

Hamblin attributed the increase to the simultaneous revivals held nationwide last spring called "Good News America: God Loves You," saying the simultaneous revivals "obviously turned it (the trend) around."

Price and Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the Home Mission Board, also presented a report on results of the Good News America simultaneous revivals, based on telephone surveys of 760 SBC churches and projected to indicate results for the entire denomination.

The research estimated 145,000 persons made professions of faith during the Good News America revivals, an average of five in each participating church.

Of the 145,000 persons who professed faith during the revivals, Southern Baptist churches baptized about 103,000, an average of four baptisms per church, Price said.

The research indicated about 27,000 Southern Baptist churches participated in the Good News America campaign, about 74 percent of all Southern Baptist churches.

Of the 27,000 participating churches, about 8,000, 30 percent, did not report any professions of faith during their revival meetings, the research indicated. Smaller churches were less likely to report professions of faith than larger churches. About 46 percent of the participating churches with less than 100 members reported no professions of faith or baptisms.

The majority of the professions of faith and baptisms occurred in larger churches with 750 or more members, the research indicated. Those churches reported 46 percent of the professions of faith.

Eighty-five percent of the churches indicated they would participate in nationwide simultaneous revivals if they are scheduled again.

Plans were projected during the national conference of evangelism directors meeting in Atlanta for another nationwide simultaneous revival effort in 1990. Theme for the 1990 campaign will be "Here's Hope: God Cares for You."

Plans were also made for a "Year of the Laity in Evangelism and Discipleship" emphasis from October 1988 to September 1989, leading up to the 1990 Here's Hope simultaneous revivals.

Jim Newton writes for the HMB.

## Literacy rate at 60 percent is inspiration for ministry

Baptists have a chance to make a contribution to lessen one of America's saddest shames — the literacy rate.

Richard Alford, consultant in the MCB's Cooperative Missions Department, reports that at least 40 percent of the American adult population cannot personally study the Bible because they are functionally illiterate.

"Through literacy missions we have the opportunity to help people bring positive changes to their economic helplessness and to share our caring Lord with them," says Alford, in announcing a series of literacy workshops in Mississippi.

The workshops will equip any per-

son to teach another person how to read.

A total of seven workshops are scheduled in January, February, and March across the state.

Dates, locations and instructors are:

Jan. 19-23; First Church, Marks, offered mornings and evenings, Mrs. Mary Allred, Nashville, for details, contact the North Delta Associational office in Clarksdale.

Jan. 19-23; First Church, Columbus, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mrs. Ada Young, Louisville, Ky., contact Cindy Pelphrey at 328-3915.

Jan. 26-27 and Jan. 29-30; First Church, Greenwood, 5:30-9:30 p.m., with snack supper, Judge Robert

said he was "thrilled and pleased . . . and would like to say thank you" for the proposals.

Harmon Moore, retired state executive director for Indiana Baptists, said the reorganization would enable the board to look more clearly at the 130 to 140 nations where a traditional missionary approach is not possible.

He called the plan "the greatest thing that has come down the pike in a long time."

Parks' announcement came 10 months after he told the board last February that Southern Baptists must be willing to face a new and changing reality and make necessary adjustments in their mission efforts if Bold Mission Thrust is to be accomplished. The convention in 1976 adopted Bold Mission Thrust objectives, including an overarching goal of sharing the gospel with all people of the world by the year 2000.

Parks said he is praying that God would use the plan to "lift Southern Baptists to a whole new level of involvement in world evangelization that would impact what is happening in our churches and in our convention."

Bob Stanley writes for the FMB.

Sugg, Jackson, contact Leflore Associational office at 453-9408.

Jan. 27-30; First Church, Hazlehurst, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., with snack lunch, Mrs. Juanita Schilling, Mendenhall, contact the Copiah Associational office at 894-2024 or Mrs. Mayme Prevost at 894-1115.

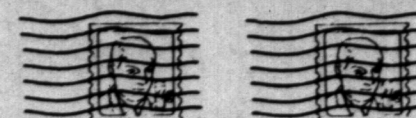
Feb. 16-19; Hinds-Madison Association Feb. 13 & 14, and Feb. 20 & 21 (Fridays 7-9 p.m.; Saturdays 8-3 p.m.), Conversational English to be taught by Mrs. Renee Sugg; Adult reading by Judge Robert Sugg.

Mar. 6-7 and March 13-14; Plainway Church, Laurel. Judge Robert Sugg; for details, contact Russell Cottingham, 649-8114.





# Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

## A church closed?

Editor:

This refers to the Dec. 4 editorial entitled, "Legislature Should Act."

Your editorial properly says in paragraph two, "Except for one event, we could just say that the whole thing is none of our business and be done with it" i.e., the reported closing of a regular worship service of a church by the State of Mississippi.

Then you call for action, not on this appalling event, (that sends chills up and down the spine) but what you had just said, and with which I agree, is "none of our business."

I am deeply disappointed that the Mississippi Baptist Convention turned its back on this matter and refused to consider a resolution calling for an investigation of the Bethesda affair.

Your editorial suggests that perhaps the Baptist Record has more "facts" than it has printed by making the statement that "It is very likely that if it happened it was an inadvertent error" (emphasis supplied). How could it have been inadvertent when the state raiding party took two Episcopal priests with them as spiritual and religious counsellors?

I cannot agree with the thrust of your editorial that lobbying the legislature for licensing child-care facilities will resolve this very serious constitutional infringement of freedom of worship. This is not a legislative program, but a judicial one. We can hardly expect those responsible for this action to investigate themselves or to bring this matter to the attention of state or federal grand juries. This will occur only when men of courage demand it. But, who will do this? Except for an out-of-state TV evangelist, the leadership of the church of the living God is strangely silent.

Our Christ warned his followers that soon the Roman "abomination of desolation" would stand in the holy place. Forty years later the legions of Titus burned and sacked the temple.

I am concerned that the "abomination of desolation" has stood in a Mississippi pulpit unchallenged. Yet we find a frenzied reaction to activists in the ACLU trying to extinguish a lighted cross in the Sillers building.

Donald Colmer  
Jackson

The thrust of the editorial was not that the licensing of child-care facilities would resolve any church-state infringement.

It was two-fold: first, that if the state closed the church, it made a grievous error, whether inadvertent or not; and second, that when a group bands together to care for minor children who are not their own, there needs to be some sort of watch-care established — and who better to serve in that capacity than the people of the state? Officials of the state act only as their agents. The editorial simply

pointed out that Mississippi Baptists' child care operation is licensed already, though it doesn't have to be.

Any closing of the church, if there were such a closing, and the appeal for licensing on a general basis were completely separate thoughts.

We would not point a finger at the Bethesda operation. We simply say that when one is caring for minor children not his own, he needs to be monitored in some way.

We have no more facts. I was not aware that two Episcopal priests were on the scene.

## Intensive Care

Editor:

This is in reply to a letter from Mrs. Myrtle M. Carroll in the November 27, 1986, edition of the Baptist Record. In her letter, Mrs. Carroll claimed that alcoholism is not a disease, "the alcoholic must depend on the Lord." I wonder how educated she is in the field of medicine. As a recovering alcoholic, I know first hand of the disease of alcoholism. This disease is very powerful.

I agree whole-heartedly that alcoholics must rely on the Lord. In my treatment process, I was introduced to a Higher Power, whom I choose to call God. I was taught the art of faith, prayer, and spiritual meditation.

Why must these be separated? In my experience, they have worked hand-in-hand as I have been taught all of my life, God works through other people. So what is wrong with doctors treating alcoholism as a disease? After all, the goal is to help those in need.

Through my recovery, I have been led to the Lord, and it was the Lord who led me to treatment through those people who care enough to offer help.

Due to the anonymity of my program, I request that my name be withheld. I'm very grateful for the series running "Intensive Care."

Name withheld by request

## Support for its own

Editor:

The deacons at Pinelake Church, Brandon, would like to offer strong support to one of its own, James K. Smith. Jim served as deacon and held many other places of leadership within our church. He surrendered to the ministry while a member of Pinelake and will be graduating this month from New Orleans Seminary with a master's degree in divinity. Jim desires a pastoral or similar position. We highly recommend him and welcome any inquiries concerning his qualifications. He will serve our Lord well. Please pray for Jim and his family as they seek God's will for a place of service.

Charles S. Weimer,  
Chairman of deacons  
Pinelake Church, Brandon

## Deity of Christ

Editor:

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ lived 33 years on earth in human form. During his last three years, God gave him power to heal the sick, let the cripple walk, restore sight to the blind, to resurrect the dead to life, and other miracles (superhuman acts), which are recorded in the four gospel books of the New Testament.

Jesus was the vessel God used to show mankind his divine power over man whether he was sick, well, crippled, blind, or dead. The 12 chosen apostles were witnesses to most of these "healings."

On the Roman cross Christ died a death as a human being. Later, after his burial, God directly raised Christ from the dead. This resurrection of Christ from death was a personal act of God. I know of no other personal resurrection of the dead by God recorded in the Bible.

I believe that Christ's resurrection by God is positive proof that Jesus Christ truly was and is the Son of God. There should and can be no doubt as to the deity of Jesus Christ by anyone anywhere.

Robert S. Leigh  
Jackson

## Licensing means control

Editor:

In response to your editorial in the December 4 issue, "Legislature Should Act," I want to address several issues.

First, everything one reads in the papers is not always "factual" in the sense of being "the truth." How a person interprets perceived evidence may be factual but it may also not be "the truth." The Bethesda case is an example in point because "the truth" has not been made known since all the evidence is not in and until that happens we are dealing with what is perceived as factual truth.

Second, I am disturbed that the only solution you see to the problem at Bethesda is that of state licensing. To put it simply, the power to license is the power to control. If the state has the power to require certain procedures for licensing, what is to keep the state from going the next step and requiring that biblical principles not be taught as a foundation for counseling since the state is supposed to be religiously neutral.

Neutrality, though, is a myth; and the state today, being void of God's law, works on the premise of humanistic law which is the antagonist of Christianity. It is idolatry to grant the power to control Christian schools and institutions to the state. It makes the state our sovereign instead of the Lord Jesus Christ and moves us one step closer to totalitarianism.

A civil government which seeks to judge in the area of religion and church seeks to be a messiah. With its messianic aspirations, it will not grant religious freedom but religious toleration. The U.S.S.R. and China permit religious toleration but not religious freedom. Our Baptist forefathers took a strong position against toleration.

I would encourage all Baptists to think long and hard about state licensing of Christian institutions, Baptists or non-Baptist. I firmly believe it would lead us further down the road to loss of what freedom we have left as Christians.

Dennis McKay, pastor  
Immanuel Church  
Greenwood

## Priority placement

Editor:

I am disturbed over the people who were disturbed about the time Mississippi Singing Churchmen took at the convention. What a shame that these people complain. I never hear these people complain about how long a ball game lasts or some other kind of sporting event. It all shows or reveals what a person's priorities are or where his love is.

Carey Paul Douglas  
Wesson

The worst use you can make of success is to boast of it.

If you keep your mind sufficiently open, people will throw a lot of rubbish into it.

## Holly Springs at 150

Editor:

Our church, the First Baptist Church, Holly Springs, Miss., will be 150 years old in 1987.

We are planning to celebrate June 21. We are in need of more history, etc. We would appreciate anything anyone could do to help us get some material.

Thank you very much.

The sesquicentennial chairman is Mrs. W. C. (Marie) Sandusky. The resource chairman is Mrs. Pattie Dent.

Mrs. Walter C. Sandusky  
145 N. Randolph St.  
Holly Springs, MS 38635

Pews, pulpits, baptistries,  
stained glass, carpet,  
steeples, chairs,  
tables, lighting,  
folding doors

Van Winkle  
Church  
Furnishings &  
New Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627  
Design—Construction Management

We Remodel & Paint

FOOTBALL/BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/BASKETBALL  
CHEERLEADING/GYMNASTICS/SOCCER/TENNIS  
**A CHRISTIAN SPORTS CAMP**  
(Grades 4-8)  
BIBLE STUDIES/ELLOWS/S/RECREATION  
FOOTBALL/BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/BASKETBALL  
CHEERLEADING/GYMNASTICS/SOCCER/TENNIS  
•Oklahoma Baptist University  
•Baylor University  
•Louisiana College  
•Mississippi College  
•Ouachita Baptist University  
•Mercer University  
•Wake Forest University  
•Carson-Newman College  
**Crosspoint**  
For promotional video and brochures, call or write:  
Church Recreation Department  
Baptist Sunday School Board  
Nashville, TN 37234  
(615) 251-2711

It is not too late to join us.

## The Best of China (With Christians)

2ND ANNUAL TOUR: Beijing, Shanghai, Xian, Guilin, Canton — Also Hong Kong and Tokyo — departs (directly from Atlanta) March 10, 1987, for 16 Great Days (AEA Week).

Includes 43 meals; First Class Hotels, Beijing Opera, Shanghai Circus, Guilin Folk Music, Six-Hour Li River Cruise, Fantastic Shopping in China and Hong Kong, Seminary and Churches, and Much More!

Make Reservations Now—

Harold and Opal Anderson

3420 Richmond Road, Montgomery, AL 36111

or call for brochure: 1-205-281-5700

\$2,687 — One Low Price Complete from Atlanta

## 15 - Passenger Church Vans

We specialize in Church Vans, both 12 and 15 passenger. We sell to all churches for factory cost plus \$145.00 for service. We also carry used Vans. Call for more information. Ask for Reggie Frierson. (601) 798-8682.

P.S. We also have a special lease plan for the clergy on any Ford, Lincoln, or Mercury.

Dub Herring Ford-Lincoln - Mercury  
Picayune, MS 39466.



## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

### What do I want for Christmas?

Dec. 14: A poinsettia flames from the windowsill of this hospital room. High schoolers have hung a giant wreath at the front entrance downstairs. Shoppers buying gifts, I've heard, are making cash registers ring at the MetroCenter across the highway.

What do I want for Christmas?

From the waiting room of an Intensive Care Unit, life's true values and essentials quickly separate themselves from the list of this world's goods.

When I wrote my Nov. 20 column, I mentioned my gratitude for family and friends who pray for me. I had no idea then how soon or how heavily I'd be leaning on them for that support.

Nov. 26: "I'm afraid I have bad news," Dr. Pinkston told me. He said he'd discovered a tumor in W.D.'s lung.

Thanksgiving Day: We ate lunch with over 50 others at Billie and Lavelle Tullos' "End of the Road" place at Hermanville. I tried hard to work through the verse, "In everything give thanks," but found it hard going.

Nov. 29: Bad news came that the tumor was malignant, but good news followed that it was operable.

Dec. 1: W.D., in Hinds General Hospital, Jackson, told doctors, preachers, and other visitors of his assurance that God was going to see him through the surgery, and that he was going to be all right. He and I, together in his room that night prayed as I voiced our thoughts: "Lord, you know our hearts' cry for healing. In your omnipotent wisdom you know what is best. We lay this all in your hands, and turn it over to you."

Dec. 2: Surgeons removed W.D.'s left lung and with that said they got all the tumor they could see or feel.

Dec. 3: At home for a few hours of sleep, I turned out the light. At 10, the phone rang. Dr. Rueff, surgeon, was so elated with the lab's report that lymph nodes he removed showed no sign of cancer, that he could not wait until morning to tell me. He said he felt that W.D. was doing wonderfully well.

Dec. 7: (The longest day of my

life): Pneumonia and other complications sent W.D. back to ICU. He was placed on a respirator. On Sunday morning, Dr. Westbrook was paged from somewhere. He came to the hospital in his Sunday suit, and he and whatever other helpers he had — mostly my Heavenly Father — worked together to prolong the miracle of life.

All day I kept hearing reports of people who were praying for us. Vernon and Sybil Tullos, after I called them, called Morrison Heights. At the church they had special prayer at morning and night services.

Rosa Hooper called Joan Peterson for me, and Joan prayed with me on the phone. She reminded me of our covenant to remember Colossians 3:2, "to keep our thoughts on things above."

I kept thinking of Lucille Cannon's words when I had called her on Wednesday after the surgery: "Honey, I know he's going to be all right. I just feel it. The Holy Spirit told me so. I can see the angels camped around his bed. Tell him the Lord has something wonderful in store for him."

And I rested on another promise God had given me: "Call on me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not. . . ."

Great and mighty things he did show me. By Tuesday night W.D. was off the respirator and by Thursday night was in a private room.

Dec. 14: Today he is looking much stronger, and it appears that I'll have what I want most for Christmas — to have my husband home with me.

Today I have received the gift of quiet, here in this hospital room, isolated from the world. I have received the gift of love, human and divine. I have the gift of his Presence.

I want to say thank you to my fellow church members, to my co-workers in the Baptist Building, to my neighbors, our families, our friends who have been praying for us. A happy Christmas to you, and to all our Baptist Record readers: *Let us praise the Lord together and exalt his name. For I cried to him and he answered me (Psalm 34:3, 4 LB).*



### International students meet

George Braswell, professor of missions and world religions at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., talks with Anakarelis Hernandez of Venezuela during a break at the International Student Conference at Camp Garaywa. The weekend program drew a total of 100 students to the sessions which openly discussed the differences between Christianity and other religions and the distinctives of Christianity. Braswell, a former professor at the University of Teheran, Iran, told the group that "Jesus Christ is God's expression in human form of love and forgiveness of rebellion and sin. Jesus' death on the cross defeats the ultimate power of evil and sin and death and restores to humans the relationship to God." Says conference organizer Lloyd Lunceford of the student department at the MBCR, "The students experience the real meaning of working together as we focus on what we have in common instead of our cultural differences."

### Devotional

## The blessings of giving

By Ed McDaniel

Most Americans this time of the year have no trouble thinking about giving and receiving. The spirit of Christmas is filled with buying and selling, profit and loss. The real meaning of Christmas somehow gets lost in the 5th Avenue approach to Christmas.



McDaniel

Giving was at the very heart of this first Christmas. God giving his only Son to a world filled with misled and thoughtless people. Giving because He loved was at the very root of this greatest of all gifts. Offering mankind the best that heaven had to meet our deepest need.

What a difference this world would see if we in the church would learn from that master teacher the real joy of giving. Eric Fromm once said, "Man never does anything that he does not ultimately do for himself." What a blow!

Was he right? I'm not sure, but as we look around in a country filled with the finest church plants that money can buy, filled with people wearing designer clothes, driving the finest cars on the market, and living in the lap of luxury at home, it's really difficult to believe we have learned much about the truth of giving out of the mouth of that great teacher. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than; to receive." You can't be serious now, Lord!

Let's make this Christmas a gift of ourselves to others, without thinking about what it is going to do for us. We can know the real blessing of becoming the gift of joy, life, love, hope, friendship, listener, reader, and any number of other things that lonely, hurting people may need.

The height of hypocrisy is to get into our fine cars, drive by lost and dying neighbors on our way to church, drop \$2 in the Lottie Moon Offering and think we have given our part. Jesus from the cross shows us that giving involves one's total life.

Give yourself away and you will find the real meaning of what Jesus was saying with his birth and life. Thank you, Jesus, for the greatest gift of all! Ed McDaniel is pastor, First, Richland.

### Rates lowered at Central Hills

Because of action taken by the Assemblies and Camps Program Committee and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on Nov. 10, the off-season rates at Central Hills Baptist Retreat have been lowered.

The new rates are as follows: Registration can be made with a deposit of \$5 per person. Baptist groups may schedule an event using the 64 bed Lodge with a cost of \$17 per person for over-night with three meals. A non-Baptist group fee would be \$19 per person for over-night with three meals. Brochures containing a reservation request form are available from: Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Box 237, Kosciusko, Miss. 39090-0237, phone: 601-289-9730. This brochure lists facilities and activity areas which are available to scheduled groups.

## Window of opportunity is open

By Paul Breazeale

President Reagan recently signed into law the most sweeping changes in the history of our tax code. These changes will affect virtually every taxpayer in America. The nature of these changes and the manner in which they are phased in create a window of giving opportunity that may never occur again. This window exists primarily due to three aspects of the new law.

First, 1986 is the last year that non-itemizers will be able to deduct the full amount of charitable contributions. For 1986, non-itemizers can deduct contributions up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income (30 percent for appreciated property) just like those who itemize their deductions. After 1986 you must itemize your deductions in order to deduct charitable contributions.

Second, the tax rates are being reduced in 1987 and 1988. This means that making a contribution in 1986 (the window of opportunity) can generally result in greater tax savings as compared with making the contribution in 1987 and thereafter. For instance, a taxpayer in the highest brackets could save 11.5% (1987) or 22% (1988) if contributions are made before December 31, 1986.

Third, generally the transfer of non-cash property which has risen in value and has been held for the legally determined long-term holding period (currently six months and a day) can be given to a non-profit organization and the tax which would have been due on the capital gains avoided. A charitable income tax deduction is also allowed for the full fair market value of the property.

After 1986, tax reform will cause the benefits of such gifts to be reduced for some high income donors through a new minimum tax provision. Accordingly, it may be more economical to make such gifts of appreciated property in 1986.

In addition to your church, in Mississippi we have many worthwhile Baptist causes that need your contributions to carry on their ministries. If you plan to make a contribution in the future you should consult with your tax advisor about this window of giving opportunity that is available today. It may never come again.

Paul V. Breazeale is treasurer of the Mississippi Mission endowment campaign and a certified public accountant.

## Suit project underway

The annual Montana Suits project is again underway. Each year, the Baptist men of Mississippi sponsor the purchase of a new suit of clothes for pastors of the Northern Plains.

This year, the project will provide suits for pastors in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The cost per suit is \$130.

Says one bi-vocational pastor in a letter, "Having just one suit a year is a boost to our closets and our self-esteem. . . You are an example of what mission giving is all about."

Those wishing to participate in the project may write the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS. PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679  
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**FOR CHARTER OR RENT**

**25 - or 47 -**  
**Passenger buses**  
**BUS SUPPLY CO. INC.**  
McComb, MS 601-684-2900



## Because of Christmas

From our kitchen window  
They entertained us —  
Four baby mocking birds  
In the crepe myrtle tree.

We paused to see God's hand at work  
As parents went to and fro  
And happy baby sounds  
Filled the air with glee.

Suddenly, there were screams!  
A bunch of blue jays  
Were attacking fiercely  
And unexpectedly.

Before help could reach them,  
The nest was torn, one baby dead,  
And a blue jay was flying off  
With one in his mouth.

At this moment the blue jays  
Ceased to be beautiful.  
Their bright coloring faded,  
Turned dull and drab and dark.

Then the thought came loud and clear:  
That's just like Satan  
With his shining "feathers,"  
Deceptive and cunning ways.

The Blue Jay of the air  
Tried to kill Jesus,  
Didn't want Him to be born  
On Christmas Day.

It's because of Christmas,  
The cross and the empty tomb  
That the big bad Blue Jay  
Is defeated forever!

—Ruby Singley  
Columbia



## Country Christmas Time

The cattle huddle around the old barn,  
Near the well lowing for the master's hay;  
The rooster's crowing before daylight,  
Giving out sounds of the country way.

When flowers begin their blooming thing,  
And vines cover the fences bare;  
And moss is matted by the thorny path,  
While roses scent the country air.

When harvest is ripe in summertime,  
And little garden has done its best;  
We fill the jars and freeze the food,  
Then sigh and take a country rest.

Soon autumn appears; then leaves turn  
To awesome colors of brown and gold;  
We view the way through the trees,  
Of another country light unfold.

When winter chill covers the sky,  
The farmer hangs up his old hat;  
Then peaceful times come at last;  
My country says "Amen to that."

At Christmas time we trim the trees,  
And bells beneath the steeples ring;  
While praises are sung about the king;  
Then country's done its holy thing.

—A. J. Grantham  
Richland

## Christmas on Sunday

Why am I living, happy and free?  
Because of the gift God gave to me,  
His promise fulfilling to all of mankind,  
A Son that was willing to be born at this time.

A Lamb without blemish, not a spot or a stain,  
Who died on a cross, to save me from shame.  
He gave himself, my Savior and Lord,  
And I have done nothing, but claim the reward!

Oh, Christmas on Sunday, birthday of our King,  
No wonder we are happy, and carols we sing.  
The hearts he makes happy, the souls he uplifts;  
Sing praises to Jesus, the Greatest of Gifts!

Thank you, Lord, for all you have done,  
We'll praise you and love you till your kingdom comes.  
Peace on earth, and redemption from sin,  
Gave our Lord Jesus, the Savior of Men.

So my prayer from now on shall be  
Let me, dear Lord, give something for thee.

C. B. May, Jr., Smithdale

(Written Dec. 25, 1966, while the author was "sitting in a caboose, in the train yard at Gulfport, waiting for the crew to give a brake test.")

## Morningstar of Bethlehem

Morningstar of Bethlehem, shine on us tonight.  
Holy infant Jesus, lend to us thy light.  
As the star above the stable shone brightly up above,  
shine within our hearts, and fill us with thy love.

Shepherds watching in the fields saw a wondrous sight.  
Then the angel of the Lord filled them all with fright.  
"Fear not" was his message. Men had found God's favor.  
In the city of David was born to all a savior.  
Suddenly a multitude of heavenly hosts rejoiced in one accord.  
The virgin Mary's baby was Jesus Christ the Lord.

—Dorothy C. Pridgen  
Collins

## A child is born

A child is born! So what? you say.  
That happens all the time.  
But not this way, don't you see,  
for the first time in mankind  
this child that's born beneath the star  
is different from any other.  
His father is our God above,  
and he has an earthly mother.

The prophets told of his coming  
long before he ever arrived,  
and the angel announced his arrival  
to shepherds on a quiet hillside.  
Wisemen came to see him, to honor his blessed birth.  
They presented him gifts of gold and  
frankincense and myrrh.

When he was an infant, men sought to kill him,  
but that could never be.  
His death was also prophesied;  
He must die upon the tree.  
But not until he lived and loved  
and went about doing good  
could he take his life and give it  
upon the cross of wood.

Not all this has a purpose;  
it's not without a plan.  
The Son of God came down to earth  
to give his life for man.

—Michael O'Brien  
Lexington

## Love came silently

Love came silently  
from warmth of mother's womb  
to chill of cattle-stall  
this infinite, eternal,  
Son of God came — a baby

Love came silently  
in the presence of earthly things  
to be received by men of low estate  
from distant Judean hills —  
the shepherds

Love came silently  
The Word swaddled in flesh  
came to rest awhile in human arms,  
to be protected, cherished, nourished —  
until his time would come

In the silence of my heart  
I make a cathedral to offer praise  
to him who gave this Child  
that I might have eternal life.

—Helen F. Boren  
Pontotoc



## Just for the Record



West Heights Church, Pontotoc, held a note burning ceremony, Nov. 23, for property that was purchased Jan. 23, 1985 for \$100,000.

Jimmy Stegall, chairman of deacons, burned the note. Pictured (left to right) are Mrs. Joyce Warren, Everett Wilder, Joe Pearson, Jack Sappington, Stegall, Mrs. Hazel Forman (not

seen), Mrs. Mary Walton, Mrs. Linda Willard, Mrs. Lois Tallant, Ralph Mitchell, Mrs. Mogrette Gillespie, Wilton Chism, James Francis, minister of music, Calvin Young, Johnny Seale, and James Spencer, pastor. These people made up the Long Range Planning Committee and were instrumental in securing the property.



Receiving their yearly pins and diplomas in Sunday School from Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, are pictured, (left to right) Lana Rogers, Tim Edwards, Justin Ogletree, and Chris Sanders, and Frances Rogers, teacher.

Walnut Grove Church recently held a county wide GA adventure workshop with each age level working on steps. Miss Dot Lathem was the speaker for the day. Mrs. Mildred Sharp, GA director of Leake Association, was in charge. There were 37 in attendance with seven churches represented.

## Staff Changes

Tommy Miles of Morton, has accepted the pastorate of Harmony Church, located off Highway 35 south of Raleigh on the Old Mize Road. Harmony Church, organized in 1832, is the oldest Southern Baptist church in Smith County. Miles was the former pastor of Rock Bluff Church, located south of Polkville, in the Daniels community, for the past seven years. His previous pastorates included Clifton Church and East Morton Church Migrant Mission Church, Scott County. Miles makes his home in Morton, with his wife, the former Sheena Renee Comfort, and children, Thomas H. (Tom) Miles III, 7, and Stacy Renee Miles, 9 months.

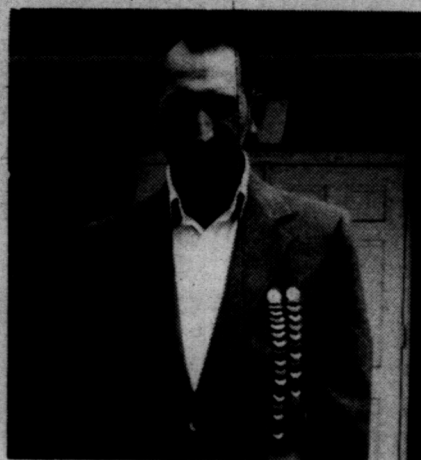


Acteans of First Church, Macon, recently presented a Thanksgiving skit for the Handicapped Organization of Noxubee County. This group is made up of girls from several community churches. They are pictured, back row, (left to right) Sara Taber, Susan Sparkman, and Janet Taber, leader. Front row, Mary Lynn Kinard, Mary Margaret Thomas, Suzanna Taber, Monica Dyess, Alison Megehee, Tina Barnett, Mary Elizabeth Gill, Lauren Sparkman, and Robbin Spell. Rhonda Higginbotham (not pictured).



New Hope Church, Foxworth, awarded pins at a recognition service for 27 members (pictured) with perfect attendance ranging from one year to 18 years.

B. B. Stringer (left) was honored for 31 years of perfect attendance. Among other tasks, he rings the church chimes every Sunday morning and is chairman of the ushers. Bobby Smith is pastor, and Kenny White is music and youth director.



Old Pearl Valley Church of Highway 19 North, Philadelphia, will have its Christmas Cantata, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. The presentation of the Cantata "Night of Miracles" will be a dramatic presentation of the greatest story ever told with an adult choir of singers and a live children's manger scene. Sammy J. McDonald is pastor. There will also be a senior adult program at 11 a.m., and a Christmas dinner at noon.

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — The Fall Conference of Private Schools of Education in Mississippi was held Nov. 18 at the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College. Walter Butler, dean of the school of education at Carey, presided over the meeting.



RAs from Second Avenue Church, Laurel, sold loaves of homemade bread to raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The group raised over \$200.00 to apply to the church's goal of \$6,000.

Members of this group, pictured, left to right, are Jeremy Wade, Jason Wade, Jeffrey Bull, Nathan Taylor, Neil Wolgamott, and Jason Bull. Not pictured is Chris Breland.

Mrs. Roger Wade is director and is assisted by Mark Sellers. Tom F. Rayburn is pastor.

## Clarke College students add to foreign offering drive

Clarke College Baptist Student Union Council added a new dimension to their Lottie Moon Foreign Missions Offering drive when they met in the home of Dean James C. Read to dedicate a Christmas tree for Clarke graduates who have been called to the foreign mission field.

The students placed hand-blown glass bells and angels on a pure white tree. Printed on each ornament was the name of a missionary. More than 40 names were placed on the tree for special prayer during the holiday season. "Clarke faculty and students have always been like a family,"

said Mrs. Read, "and like family, love continues even though students graduate or move away. We want Clarke family who are on the mission field to feel that love, especially in our holiday prayers."

Each council member was given a miniature Christmas bell as a

reminder to pray for all Clarke family on foreign fields each time they hear bells during the Christmas season.

Clarke's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal was set at \$2,000. At present, contributions and pledges have reached \$2,179.



**FALCON** by el dorado  
**#1** in the small bus industry  
 For **FREE DEMONSTRATION**  
 call collect  
 601-924-1983 David Upton  
**SOUTHEASTERN BUS SALES**  
 203 Hester St. Clinton, MS 39056

**OLD BIBLES REBOUND**  
 A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.  
*"Internationally known specialists"*  
**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**  
 Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

**CHURCH STEEPLES**  
 • BAPTISTRIES  
 • WALL CROSSES  
 • BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS  
 COLONIAL, CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS  
 TRICOLOR WITH COMPANY  
 GRAMES AND TOWNS AVAILABLE  
 WRITE FOR ALL COLOR  
 LITERATURE AND PROPOSALS  
 TOLL FREE  
**800 241 3152**  
 IN GEORGIA  
 COLLECT  
 404 993 9999  
 1000 N. W. 10th St.  
 P.O. BOX 910  
 ROSWELL, GA 30075



## Names in the News

First Church, Houka, surprised and honored its pastor, Bruce Cappleman, and his family in appreciation of eight years of service, Nov. 16. William A. Collums gave a short address during the morning worship service, citing memorable experiences of the pastor's ministry at Houka. At the conclusion of his speech, he presented a love gift from the church in the amount of \$1,150.00.

A meal was served after the worship service. Special invited guests were parents of the pastor and his wife.

Cappleman and his wife, Martha, have three children, Scott, Christa, and Kati.

Kelly A. Travis was ordained to the gospel ministry on Nov. 22 by his home church, Bethel Church, Pearl River Association.

Charge to the church was given by Clark Stewart, pastor of Central Church. Charge to the candidate was given by Wayne McCullough, pastor of Tammany Hills Church. Ordination message was given by Dan Finley, pastor of Bethel Church.

Travis is pastor of Clear Creek Church, Marion Association, Route 5, Box 178, Lumberton, MS 39455.



Mike Howell, left, pastor of McCool Church, and new moderator of Attala Association, takes the gavel from outgoing moderator, Jessie McMillan, retired pastor, now member of McAdams Church.

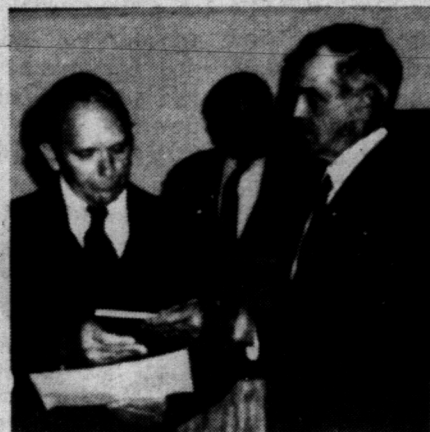
Louis R. Walsh, assistant professor of arts at Mississippi College, has been nominated as the Outstanding Higher Education Art Educator for the Southeastern Region by the Mississippi Art Education Association. Walsh, who joined the Mississippi College faculty in 1969, has served MAEA for four terms as president and is president-elect of the organization this year. Walsh has taught art at all levels — from junior high through college. A skilled potter and weaver, Walsh has exhibited in a number of galleries in the state.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Six students at Southern Seminary from Mississippi have been named to the 1987 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. They are: Edwin K. Broadhead, doctor of philosophy, of Meridian; Melva Clark, master of divinity/Christian education, of Independence; Vernon Gordon, Boyce Diploma, of Sardis; Camilla Nell Holzer, master of divinity, of Perkinston; Timothy A. McCoy, doctor of philosophy, of Tupelo; and Lisa Hamilton McWhorter, master of social work, of Meridian. Students are included in Who's Who on the basis of academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

Frederick and Denise Kelley, missionary associates to Morocco, report a change of address (No. 47 Cite des Mimosas, Fes, Morocco). A native of Alabama, he was born in Dothan and considers Enterprise his hometown. The former Denise Mulligan, she was born in Union, Miss., and considers Mobile, Ala., her hometown. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1986.



Concord Church, Dry Creek, Tippah Association, recently held deacon ordination. Pictured left to right, are W. G. Dowdy, pastor; Clifford Smart, preached ordination sermon and father of Bobby Smart, ordained deacon, and twin brother, Billy Smart.



Jerry Houston was ordained as deacon at Coldwater Church, Philadelphia, on Nov. 9. Bill Kennedy is presenting the certificate and a book on being a deacon. Barron Pilgrim is pastor.

Jesse Clyde Edwards, 80, Kemper County, died Oct. 25, at Kemper County Hospital. He was diagnosed as having cancer of the pancreas.

Throughout his life he attended church at Bay Springs Church. As a youth he gave his heart to the Lord, was baptized, and became a member of the church. Over the years he served the church in several capacities. He began serving as church clerk and treasurer in the 1920s and continued in that office for nearly 50 years. He served as adult Sunday School teacher for several years and one interval as song leader. He was ordained as a deacon and eventually became chairman of the Board of Deacons. At one time, he single-handedly built pews for the old church.

Edwards was married to the former Dora Alice Puckett. He is survived by one son, Lowry Clyde Edwards, one daughter, Carolyn Jean Edwards Smith, and four grandchildren.

W. Lloyd Lunceford, associate, Student Work Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has been named in the 1986 edition of Outstanding Young Men of America.



Miss Cleo Moore (right) receives a plaque in appreciation of 32 years of service as church clerk of New Prospect Church, Iuka, Nov. 16. Presenting the plaque is Ronnie Gamble, deacon.



## NEW SCHEDULE FOR ACTS SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

CDT	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:00	Changed Lives	Vegetable Soup	Villa Alegre	Sunshine Factory	Carrascos	Infinity Factory	Moody Science
6:30	One in the Spirit	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Family Foundations
7:00	Catch the Spirit						Sun School Lesson
7:30	This is The Life	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Davey and Goliath
8:00	Christopher Closeup	Joy of Music	Gloria	Word of Life	Music Is	First Things + First	Sunshine Factory
8:30	Westbrook Hospital	Country Crossroads	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Gigglesnot Hotel
9:00	In Touch	¿Que Pasa?	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis Show	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	Supper/bush Kangaroo
9:30	Joy of Music	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Lone Ranger Cartoon
10:00	Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Cisco Kid
10:30	Profiles	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Our World
11:00	At Home With the Bible	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	In Concert
11:30	The Baptist Hour	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Country Crossroads
12:30	Vegetable Soup	Villa Alegre	Sunshine Factory	Carrascos	Infinity Factory	Infinity Factory	
1:00	Prime Timers	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Jimmy Houston
1:30	Sunday Selection	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Psychiatry and You	Super Handyman
2:00		COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Plant Groom
2:30							David Wade
3:00	Great Churches	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Davey and Goliath
3:30	Joy of Music						Sunshine Factory
4:00	Gloria	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Gigglesnot Hotel
4:30	Profiles	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Country Crossroads
5:00	At Home with the Bible	Villa Alegre	Sunshine Factory	Carrascos	Infinity Factory	Vegetable Soup	Jimmy Houston
5:30	This is The Life	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis Show	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	¿Que Pasa?	Supper/bush Kangaroo
6:00	Christopher Closeup	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Lone Ranger Cartoon
6:30	Westbrook Hospital	Gloria	Word of Life	Music Is	First Things + First	Joy of Music	Cisco Kid
7:00	Changed Lives						
7:30	One in the Spirit	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert
8:00	Catch the Spirit	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Moody Science
8:30	Sunday Selection						Family Foundations
9:00							Sun School Lesson
9:30	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	This is The Life
10:00	Prime Timers	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis Show	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	¿Que Pasa?	Christopher Closeup
10:30	Changed Lives	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Westbrook Hospital
11:00	One in the Spirit	Gloria	Word of Life	Music Is	First Things + First	Joy of Music	Our World
11:30	Catch the Spirit						
12:00	This is The Life	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert
12:30	Christopher Closeup	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Super Handyman
1:00	Westbrook Hospital						Plant Groom
1:30	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	David Wade
2:00	Prime Timers	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Moody Science
2:30	Super Handyman	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	*Sgt. Preston of the Yukon	Family Foundations
3:00	Plant Groom	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Sun School Lesson
3:30	David Wade						Sun School Lessons
4:00							Supper/bush Kangaroo
4:30							Lone Ranger Cartoon
5:00							Cisco Kid
5:30							

\*Effective Week of November 23

+Effective Week of December 7

## AVAILABLE IN THESE AREAS

Cleveland Warner Amex Cable Ch 10  
 Greenville McCaw Cable Ch 15  
 Hollandale Broadband Cable Ch 17  
 Jackson Capitol Cable Ch 14  
 Meridian Comcast Cable Ch 11  
 Hattiesburg U.A. Cable Ch 6  
 Laurel Laurel Community Cable Ch 20

For information contact:



Farrell Blankenship  
 Miss. Bapt. Conv. Bd.  
 P O Box 530  
 Jackson, MS 39205

## Consideration of Season

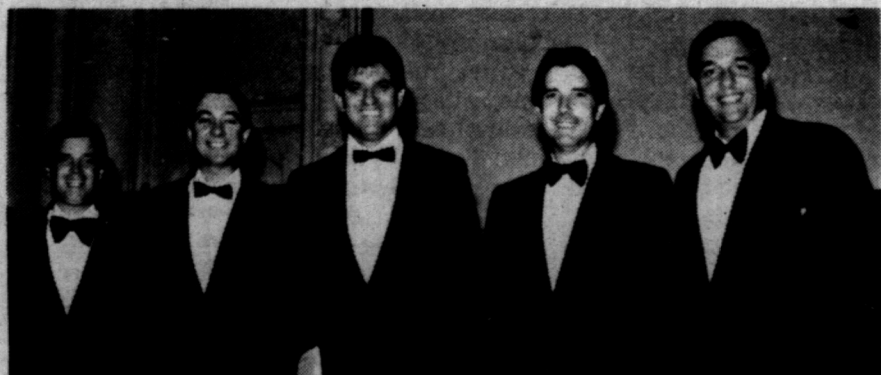
(Continued from page 2)  
 of family gatherings that are very meaningful (see the guest opinion on page 2).

It is a Christian observation. It denotes the Lord's work as he began to manifest openly his plan for the redemption of the world.

And the Baptist Record staff wishes all of our readers a very joyous and meaningful Christmas. Since this will

be the last issue until after the beginning of a new year, we also wish everyone a very happy new year.

Don McGregor  
 Tim Nicholas  
 Anne McWilliams  
 Evelyn Keyes  
 Florence Ann Larrimore  
 Renee Walley  
 Betty Anne Bailey  
 Irene Martin.



## Singing Churchmen officers

Pictured are the officers of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen. From left they are Tom Mercier, secretary, minister of music at Prentiss Church; Lew King, central area director, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson; Gary Anglin, south area director, minister of music at First Church, Pascagoula; Franklin Denham, president, minister of music at Highland Church, Meridian; and Mike Edwards, president-elect, minister of music at North Oxford Church, Oxford. Slater Murphy, north area director, minister of music at Fairview Church, Columbus, is not pictured.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

Dec. 29-30 Youth Evangelism Conference; Mississippi College; 1 p.m., 29th-5 p.m., 30th (EVAN)

## CLASSIFIED

RATE: \$10.00 per week. \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order, except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**FOR SALE: CHURCH BUS, '72 Ford, mechanically excellent, new engine, rebuilt brakes, good tires (two new tires), interior good. \$1700.00. Other offers considered. Call James 601-624-9461 or 601-624-6251 after 6:00 p.m.**



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## A Savior, Christ the Lord

By James W. Street

Luke 1:1-2:20

I approach these words in complete agreement with Augustine who said: "Let others wrangle, I shall wonder." That is the operative



Street

feeling, wonder, "How can this be?" was the wondering question of an awe-struck peasant girl at her prayers. "How can this be?" is still the final question regarding the coming.

Mary's question was related to the promise of the angel that she would bear a child. But the real wonder of the Advent goes far beyond that biological datum. Without wonder, life is not graspable. We can ask, "How can this be?" as Mary asked, and be told, "With God nothing is impossible," and rest content with that answer.

"How can this be?" that we love and are loved? How can we close our eyes and remember some long ago event, some past ecstasy or

### LIFE AND WORK

pain? How can it be that no snowflakes are alike, no two sets of fingerprints identical? How can it be that a strain of music will move a strong person to tears? Why do we get a lump in our throat on Christmas Eve?

Archibald McLeish is wrong when he sings: "We have learned the answers, all the answers: It is the question we do not know. We are not wise. We have a way of saying, what is the meaning of life? No one has answered us." Oh, come on Arch — no one?

The answer is here in the age-old story of a cradled child and a shy mother. So we're back to see it again and hear it again. And we know that we won't get diamond hard, clear-cut, cold answers this year any more than we got them last year. But we'll get the answer asked again.

And with the asking comes the ability to live with the questions and with the mystery. We will have the experience of feeling, "How can this

be?" and in the very feeling is the reassurance and the ecstasy and the hope and "the wonders of his love, the wonders of his love, the wonders, wonders of his love."

Mary's question required an answer, not a solution. It was like me asking you, "How can it be that you love your spouse, child, or parent?" You would look at me askance and say, "I don't know. I just do!" It's the only answer you can give. Mary's question is of the same nature.

For you see, in the scriptures, God is not a problem to be solved — he is a mystery to be encountered. All true religious experience is, at last, an involvement in a mystery. There are at least a dozen words in the Hebrew Old Testament that make reference to the hiddenness (mystery) of God. While he reveals himself, he does not explain himself. He is never a problem to be solved, but a mystery in which to be involved.

In the Bible, the mystery remains a secret which is revealed. But because it is a secret of God, it remains a secret. The mystery can be

known, it can be shown, but it remains a mystery. Every year the mystery and the meaning of the birth is shown again and told again.

What is a "holiday" but a "holy day", the original meaning of the word, when men, women, and children pause to reassert their reverence for what cannot be reduced to their control, a reverence for something that comes into life from beyond, some inexplicable secret concerning which we can only rejoice and give thanks.

Christmas! The most exuberant, gladsome, holiest of the holidays. The one fullest of mystery and of wonder. The whole story narrows down to a mystery about a woman bearing a child in a stable. And as we hear it again, we wonder — how can this be?

P.S. With a heart full of gratitude I wind up my writing assignment. Thank you Don McGregor, readers, respondents (pro and con), beloved church, faithful secretary, and supportive family!

James Street is pastor, First, Cleveland.

## The birth of Jesus

### BIBLE BOOK

#### II. Joseph and Mary's response (2:4-5)

The physician Luke describes Mary as being "great with child." It must have been extremely difficult for her to travel so near to the time when her baby would be born. She bravely accompanied her husband to their ancestral village and so fulfilled the prophecy found in Micah 5:2.

#### III. The birth of Jesus (2:6-7)

The greatest birth in all history was described in very few words. Bethlehem was unusually crowded as pilgrims poured into the little city. Because of the crowded conditions, Joseph was only able to secure a place where animals were kept to be the delivery room of the Son of God.

There seemed to be nothing hostile or unfriendly in their inability to find more comfortable lodging; the innkeeper did the best he could.

Mary must have known that the time for Jesus' birth was at hand, for she had taken with

her the swaddling clothes which she used to wrap her new-born baby. The trough from which animals were fed served as the first bassinet of our Savior.

In the simplest of settings, with only a carpenter husband as an attendant, Mary gave birth to her first-born son. Jesus grew up with other brothers in a home of modest means.

#### IV. The angel's announcement to the shepherds (2:8-14)

On this unusual night of nights, an angel of the Lord appeared with an overwhelming announcement. Ordinary people should read the story of the shepherds and the angel with extreme gratitude, for the angel made his great announcement to plain men, not to rulers or wealthy or powerful people.

The shepherd's field suddenly was alive with the visible presence of God. While pagans feared their gods, the angel assured the terrified shepherds that they should not be afraid.

It is significant to note that the first Christmas message was a missions message. Even before the world knew about Jesus, his missionary purpose had been announced. He was born for all people.

#### V. The Shepherd's response (2:15-17)

Following the singing of praises to God by a choir composed of a great many angels, the shepherds of Bethlehem got up and acted on what they had heard. They went to visit Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. From that time forward, they talked about the experience which they'd had. Though their future lives still would be caught up in guarding and shearing sheep and helping little lambs into the world, the Bethlehem shepherds would never be the same.

#### VI. Reactions to Jesus' birth (2:18-20)

Mary and Joseph were among those who heard the amazing things which the shepherds were telling. Mothers always treasure the good things which others say about their children. Mary tucked in her mind all the things she'd heard concerning her son.

The beautiful story of the birth of Jesus, as shared in Luke's gospel, reminds us that Christmas comes to us where we are and we, like the shepherds, are expected to follow Jesus in the fields and streets of our daily work.

Marjean Patterson is director, Mississippi WMU.

By Marjean Patterson

Luke 2:1-20

As the Apostle Paul noted in Galatians 4:4, "in the fulness of time" God sent his own Son into the world to redeem mankind. The events connected with the birth of Jesus are catalogued in incomparable fashion in the Gospel of Luke.



Patterson

#### I. A Census Decreed (2:1-3)

Luke's gospel begins with his reference to a system of enrolment of all the people for taxation purposes. This system, which the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, had set up, required the Jews to go to the place of their ancestry to be registered. Joseph was a descendant of David, therefore, he and Mary were required to travel some 80 miles to Bethlehem from their home in Nazareth for the census.

In this required enrolment, instigated by pagan rulers, we see God working even through those who did not realize his existence to bring about his purposes.

By Robert E. Self

Luke 2:6-7, John 1:14-18, Gal. 4:4-7, Heb. 2:14-18

Few events in the context of the home and marriage compare in excitement to the birth of a child. Each birth is a unique one that impresses the parents in some special way. I remember waiting anxiously with my wife for the birth of our first child. The delivery was complicated and involved a couple of days of waiting and praying. Serious concern developed over the health of the baby and the mother as we waited.



Self

Finally, surgery was performed and joy was evident as the physician came to tell me that both mother and baby were doing well. It was the Saturday before Easter. The next morning as I stood to preach, I was so overcome by the miracle of birth that I choked back the tears.

About 4 B.C. a greater "waiting room" was anticipating the birth of Messiah. They had been taught that he would come into the world as God's chosen Saviour. Angels broke into song over that joyful event and mankind would never be the same.

I. The birth, Luke 2:6-7; John 1:14-18

## Born of a woman

### UNIFORM

A. Humanity, Luke 2:6-7 Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth but Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Caesar Augustus, the absolute monarch over the Roman Empire for 44 years, issued a decree that a census of citizens should be taken in the Roman Empire. Part of the requirement of that census was that the people were to return to their family home place. Joseph belonged to the tribe of David and was required by law to return to Bethlehem for the registration. The prophet Micah had prophesied (5:2) that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the time for the birth of Jesus came. We are told that Mary gave birth to the baby, wrapped him in baby clothes and placed him in a manger. The crowd in town for the census was so large that all rooms were taken and Jesus was born in a stable. Tradition has it that those stables were caves in the rocky hillsides where cattle, sheep, and shepherds slept to escape the cold. The manger was likely a hollowed out depression in the limestone that also served as a feed box for the animals.

B. Deity, John 1:14-18 John uses "The Word" as a title for Jesus. He ascribes thereto the basic descriptions of deity, including pre-existence and creativity. We learn a very important truth when John says that the "Word" became flesh. Jesus actually took on himself the form of a man and combined that with the essence of being God. The combining of humanity and deity in one person resulted in a demonstration of God's glory.

We also read that there was a certain "fullness" to Jesus. The word *pleroma* means to fill an empty space. In Jesus, it refers to the inexhaustible fullness of grace and truth which make up what and who he is. Grace relates to the blessings of God that we receive and do not deserve, while truth consists of God's revelation of himself. So, John tells us that in Jesus we have been favored with great blessings because God has allowed us to see, to know, and to relate to him.

#### II. The benefits, Gal. 4:4-7; Heb. 2:14-18

A. Freedom, Gal. 4:4-7 Paul wrote to assert the truth that Jesus has come to free men from the bondage of law. Many held that in order to follow Jesus, they must first come under the law of Moses. Having repeatedly failed to keep the whole law, man wasn't any better off under

Jesus. So, Paul tells us that freedom has come because Jesus fulfills the law.

That freedom comes in the redemption of men who were under the law. When Jesus died on the Cross, the penalty imposed by law is paid and those who receive Jesus are set free from sin and spiritual death. That freedom is described as adoption.

B. Deliverance, Heb. 2:14-18 Specifically, our deliverance turns on the fact that Jesus became flesh and blood and paid the price of sin and thereby assert his power over death and Satan. This identification with humanity through flesh and blood encourages us to know he knows us.

Conclusion: As Christmas rapidly approaches this year, let's strive to really get at the message it brings and not get caught up in its secular concepts. The message of Christmas is the joyful truth that the Saviour has been born and dwelled among us.

I talk at least weekly on the telephone with my 31-month-old granddaughter. Sometimes when we talk she will say, "I want to come to see you at your house." The message of Christmas is that simple. Let's remember this year that the whole Christmas event is God saying, "I want to come see you at your house."

Robert Self is pastor, First, Brookhaven.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, MS 39213, (601) 922-2242

Accredited by the National Association of Homes for Children  
Licensed by the State of Mississippi

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### MEMORIALS

NOV. 13 - 24

Mother of Mrs. Seab Reynolds  
Dr. & Mrs. William C. Warner  
Mrs. Zora Ott  
Fred & Twency Gaddis  
Mr. Willard Outlaw  
David & Nell Robinson  
Mr. Homer Pittman  
Mrs. Lewis Myers  
Percy Palmertree, Sr.  
Lon & Maudaline Pepper  
Mr. Grover A. Peaks  
Dottie & Benjy Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Malone  
Ms. Cora Mae Harris  
Mr. & Mrs. Gurlie Malone  
Mrs. Eula Mae Hays  
Mr. Al N. Phillips  
Mrs. Al N. Phillips  
Mrs. Arthur Turner  
Charles Dewitt Pigott, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Rawls, Jackie & Tonya  
Theron Pounds  
Ms. Peggy Williams  
Mr. Joe C. Priddy  
Mrs. W. S. Hammond  
Mrs. Shelby P. Regan, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Little  
Leo C. Reville  
Mrs. Mildred Stamps  
Mr. Carey Reynolds  
John & Linda Mabry  
Mrs. Kathryn M. Rhymes  
Triple L Club  
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Van Devender  
Louise & Tom Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. David Schubert  
Mrs. A. H. Richter, Sr.  
Nancy Shelton  
Haley Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Statham  
Mr. L. W. Rodgers, Jr.  
Mrs. Carol J. Earnest  
Mrs. Alpha Sayers  
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Cubley  
Mary Virginia Scott  
John & Rosa Brame  
H. Lynn Shattles  
T. L. & Barbara A. Curry  
Mr. H. V. Stewart  
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Knight  
Mr. Clyde Stringer  
Dr. & Mrs. Jack Herring  
Mr. S. E. Sturgis  
Mr. & Mrs. Omega H. Shamblin  
Mr. Kelly Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Cubley  
Mrs. S. M. Thomas  
Mr. W. Frank Wood  
Mrs. Effeta Tomlinson  
Miss Lurline Stewart  
Mamie Smith Treadway  
Mrs. Anna C. Ross  
Mrs. Myrna Turner  
Bernie & John Conrad  
Mrs. Ruby Wallace  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Fenwick Sr.  
M. L. Walley  
Adult Choir, FBC, Lucedale  
Mr. J. O. Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sharp  
Dorris & Lurline Stewart  
Bobbie Dawson  
James & Martha Dawson  
John & Linda Mabry  
Janice & Roger Walker  
Mr. J. D. Watford  
Mrs. Lewis Myers  
Robert Hale Watt  
Carryll & Juanita James  
L. L. Weeks  
Mr. & Mrs. Drew Jefcoat  
Yale Street Baptist Church

Patsy Owens Welburn  
Third Grade Class, Hillcrest School  
Otto Westerfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Wade C. Donnell  
Gordon White  
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Carter  
Mary White  
Ms. Peggy Williams  
Mrs. Boyd White  
Ms. Ruby A. Sherman  
Mrs. Ora H. White  
Mr. & Mrs. John Baker  
John Edward Wilemon  
Ms. Nadine Loveless  
Mr. J. M. Wilkinson  
Mrs. Arthur Turner  
Mr. Bennett Williams  
Mrs. Mary C. Bowering  
Nancy Branigan  
T. L. (Roy) Williams  
Arlington Heights Baptist Church  
Norman & Elsie Breland  
Mr. William David Wilson  
Herman & Elvera Flowers  
Edith Aldridge  
Cargill Barrett  
First Baptist Church, Lexington  
Mrs. Virginia Van Cleave  
Mrs. Juanita P. Watson  
Mr. Julian Watson  
Mrs. Nell T. Sullivan  
Hammett Gravel Co., Inc.  
Alice Dalton Thurmond  
Jocelyn Cohen  
Sue & Will Barrett  
William W. Burny  
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Coleman  
Mrs. Marcia B. Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. W. P. McWilliams Jr.  
Bud Moore  
Dr. & Mrs. Gordon D. Russell  
Mr. Don Windham  
Jimmy Thornhill, Sunflower Foods  
Mr. Edgar H. Woods  
Mr. Frank Nester  
Mr. Warren Wroten  
Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow Tullis  
Wife/Mother, John Carpenter Family  
Urvin & Van McRae  
Mr. George Young  
Miss Ruth Pate Womack  
Mrs. Margaret Young  
Mrs. Belle H. Walter

NOV. 25 - DEC. 10

Mr. A. Abide  
Frank Thomas Family  
Mr. Robert C. Albritton  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Draughn  
Mrs. Anna Allen  
Betty & Bud Thigpen  
Olen Dean Allen  
Shuqualak Baptist Church  
Jeanne Appleton  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs  
Mr. Allous Ashley  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Smith  
Mrs. Nola Barnes  
Mrs. J. E. Bagby  
Mr. Buell Bearden  
Mr. Jobie Ainsworth  
Robert & Zama Tuggle  
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Walsh  
Charlene Karr Bell  
Katherine & Beth Collins  
Mr. Gerald Bishop  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Mitchell  
Mrs. L. T. Bivin  
Bill & Elizabeth Wilson  
Bob Borchardt  
Mr. William H. Myrick  
Louis Anderson Bounds, Jr.  
Mrs. Sam B. Bounds  
Mrs. Rubenia S. Hardin

Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Anderson  
Dr. & Mrs. E. C. Bozeman  
Mrs. Anna Holliman  
Mrs. F. S. Whitfield  
Mrs. David C. Ashley  
Mrs. Ruby Bradford  
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Ballard  
Mr. "Dub" Hughes  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Young  
Mr. Emerson Brown  
Mike & Evelyn Beattie  
Rosalie Quin Browning  
Ustane & Russell Butler  
Mrs. A. A. Bruce  
Mr. Howard Grant Jr.  
Tom Grant  
Mrs. Betty Burnett  
Mrs. J. N. McGraw  
Mrs. Catherine R. Burris  
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Landrum  
Clarice Butler  
L. E. & Louise Brooks  
Mrs. Mary Byars  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hill  
Frank Cadenhead  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Peoples  
Mr. Dick Caldwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Horton  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Crowe  
Jack Calhoun  
Mrs. Sam M. Brand  
John Earl & Geraldine Calhoun  
Ms. Martha J. Till  
Damar Caraway  
Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Shirley  
Mrs. Newton Carr, Sr.  
Mrs. Maude J. Barney  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Stennett  
Mrs. Alice Dean Carr  
Mrs. Louise Mayhall  
Mr. Philip R. Causey  
Gleaners S.S. Class, FBC, Jackson  
Mr. Will Causey  
Mrs. Roy D. King  
Bill & Ruth Rigby  
Mr. Carl Coltharp  
Ms. Zallie Puryear  
Mr. Clark Cook  
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Bigham Jr.  
Mrs. Willie H. Smith  
Mr. Owen Cooper  
Mrs. Richard A. Cooper  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete McCraw  
Mrs. R. C. Upton  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon McWilliams  
Mrs. Elber Cox  
Friends of New Haven Church & Mills Community  
Mr. Terry Craft  
Mrs. Opal H. Green  
Mrs. Martha Crews  
Mr. & Mrs. Elbert B. Guynes  
Dr. Mildred M. Cridder  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Mixon  
Mr. & Mrs. George D. Watts  
Mr. Max H. Daily  
Mrs. R. C. Upton  
Mr. Leslie Daniels  
Hope S.S. Class, Centreville  
Mrs. Blanche Daugherty  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Spell Sr.  
Luther Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Havard  
Union Baptist Church  
Bobby DeLoach  
Mrs. Wilma B. Blaylock  
Mr. Clarence W. Doss, Sr.  
Mrs. Opal H. Green  
Mrs. Maudie Wade Doty  
Miss Loraine Norman  
Mr. & Mrs. R. S. Love  
Mrs. Elsie Dunnam  
Mrs. Doris G. Boyer  
Mr. J. R. (Bob) England, Sr.  
David & Opal Green  
Mr. Frank Everett  
Mrs. R. C. Upton  
Mrs. Juanita Ewing  
Mrs. Lester King

Mr. Dewey Farmer  
Siloam Baptist Church, Meadville  
Mrs. Olga Faucett  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hill  
Mrs. Bobbie Fleming  
Ms. Suzette Tew  
Mrs. Claudia T. Flowers  
Mr. & Mrs. Gurvis Ashley  
Neighbors' Homemaker Club  
Rev. James A. Fondren, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kimzey  
Ms. Billie T. Haley  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dew  
Ms. Lillian T. Thompson  
John & June Watkins  
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Thompson Jr.  
Mrs. Betty Freshour  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Nail  
Mrs. E. B. Ganann  
Mr. & Mrs. George Ramsey  
Mrs. Marie Gaugh  
John & Billie Whitfield  
Mrs. Rachel Geeslin  
Ms. Lola I. Forbes  
Reed Godwin  
Mr. & Mrs. James Reynolds  
Mr. & Mrs. Marion Estes Grace  
Mrs. Brock Craft  
Dr. & Mrs. Roy Daughdrill  
Dr. & Mrs. Carl Bozeman  
Mr. & Mrs. Marion Estes Grace  
Aimee & Allison  
Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Harper  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Harper  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bozeman  
Mr. Willis Grant, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Hoyle R. Grant  
Mr. W. H. Graves  
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Griffin, Jr.  
Mr. Grady Green  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Young  
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Griffin, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Griffin, Jr.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Guedon  
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Ainsworth  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ainsworth  
Mrs. Lillian Ainsworth  
Mrs. Zelma K. Haley  
Mrs. Dora Sills  
Leslie Marie Harbin  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Mr. Hugh Harris  
Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Miller Jr.  
Mr. Bob Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Young  
Mrs. Corinne N. Havard  
Sarah N. Shaw  
Hazel Barr's sister  
Gladys & Willie Fredrick  
Martin Heard  
Mr. & Mrs. John Weilenman Jr.  
Ms. Emily Hemeter  
Mrs. Jack M. Simmons  
Mrs. Florence P. Henson  
Mr. & Mrs. C. N. Rasberry  
Mrs. J. E. Simmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cobb  
Mrs. Hermon  
Mr. & Mrs. P. E. Wooten, Jr.  
Frank Hickman  
Ms. Louise Mounce  
Miss Agnes Hicks  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
Mrs. Mary Holbrook  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cooper  
Jesse M. "Jimmy" Holiman, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence B. Minyard  
Bud Moore  
Dr. & Mrs. James C. Griffin Jr.  
Mrs. L. O. Palmer & Paige  
Mr. C. A. Hollis  
Bobby & Myrtle Kirk & Family  
Mr. J. B. Horn  
Becky Myers  
Steve Hunt  
Ms. Mary Emily Majure  
Mrs. Frances Hunter  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Hannaford  
Mr. Harry L. Howarth  
Mr. W. E. Jeffcoat  
Robert Bradford  
Mr. Parker Jeter  
Ms. Patricia Walston  
J. W. Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ainsworth  
Mr. L. B. Johnson  
Jimmy & Judy Pryor  
Mrs. Jewel Johnson  
Mrs. Grace G. Kimbrough  
Annie Jones  
Floyd & Jewel Malone  
Bill Jones  
Mrs. Ed Mardis  
Mrs. Annie M. Jones  
Mrs. Eula Mae Hays  
Mrs. Virginia Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Young  
Mr. Hillard Jordan  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Young

Mrs. Bessie May Jordan  
Mr. W. L. Townsend  
Mrs. Versa Jordan  
Tom & Glynda Powell  
Lynn Kaufman  
Ms. Mabel C. Savage  
Mrs. Estelle Koonce  
TEL Sunday School Class, Springfield  
Miss Allison Langdon  
Mr. Harry L. Howarth  
Robert Earl "Bubba" Latham  
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Hardin  
Tony Hardin  
Miss Fannie Ruth Lay  
Mrs. Nell R. Lipham  
Mrs. H. L. Thompson  
Mr. Kenneth Lewis  
Crosby Baptist Church  
Mrs. Henry Lewis  
Mrs. Marjorie Downing  
Lacy Livingston  
Mrs. Martice Travis  
J. B. Lockhart  
Mrs. Lillian L. Finch  
Mrs. A. C. (Jewel) Long  
Daisy Ferguson  
Bill & Ruth Rigby  
Mike & Cathy Henley  
Mrs. C. D. Simpson  
Vaiden Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Johnson  
Katherine Melton  
Mrs. R. E. Nelms  
Lovie Wright S.S. Class, Vaiden  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis K. Dean & girls  
Mr. Jerry Long  
Bill & Ruth Rigby  
Cullen Lott  
Darwin & Evelyn Graham  
Mrs. Mary Lou Lott  
Mr. Earl B. Hinton  
Mrs. Roberta Lumsden  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Jack Hurst  
Macie Lundquist  
John C. Keathley  
Mr. Charles Lyles  
Bill & Elizabeth Wilson  
Mrs. Jan Marshall  
Mr. & Mrs. Rives B. Lowrey Family  
Mr. Claude C. Martin  
Commanche Street  
Neighbors, Michigan  
Helen Barber  
Mims & Susan Berry  
Jane & Micky Little  
Ernestine & Henry Nations  
Ms. Olivia S. White  
Mrs. Iva Martin  
Ellen & Susan  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Womack  
Miss Bessie Mashburn  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd L. Wooley  
Alpha Massey  
Ms. Zara Arrington  
Mr. Chester L. Masterson  
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Ballard  
O. B. Maxwell  
Cathryn and Jerry Bryant  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Rice  
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. McDaniel  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Rogers  
Mrs. J. C. McDougal  
Ms. Jeanne Merrill  
Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Taylor J. McLeod  
Mr. & Mrs. Taylor J. McLeod  
Mr. Wallie McMillan  
Mr. Clyde E. Simmons

Mr. John V. Middleton  
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Landrum  
Mrs. Pearl Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Defore  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Dungan  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Emory Jr.  
Wayne & Corrine Fornea  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Grillot  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Herbert  
Doug, Sara, & Brian LaPrade  
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Rogers  
Mrs. Mildred Would  
Pearl Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Kelly Jr.  
Mrs. Nell Montgomery  
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Head  
Rev. Elton Moore  
Lee Roy & Ruby J. Kennedy  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil  
Rose W. Coil  
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Gowan  
Mr. Wallace Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Kenneth & Scott  
Roy & Nellis Wilkie  
Eula Youngblood  
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Carpenter  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs  
William Curtis Moore  
Mrs. W. L. Thompson  
Billy White Morgan  
Gladys & Willie Frederick  
Lonnie & Sue Sims  
Rev. J. L. Morgan  
Ms. Inez McKinion  
Joey Glynn Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Little  
Bob & Gwen Fortenberry  
Mother of Mrs. Seab Reynolds  
Mrs. Sam M. Brand  
Mrs. Kathleen Murphy  
Martha & Willie Makamson  
Mr. John Myers  
The J. Z. Taylor Family  
Mr. Wayne W. Myers  
Mrs. Jane Gayden  
Mrs. Irene Naron  
Mr. Harry L. Howarth  
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Nicholas  
Mr. Robert L. Nicholas & Family  
Mr. George Norris  
Mr. & Mrs. Shelby Roper  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Smith  
Mr. Ed Omohundro  
Tommy Hancock Family  
Mrs. Ruth Osborne  
Arlington Heights Baptist Church

Mrs. Ruby Day Parker  
Mrs. Roy B. Fowles  
Jane Pleasant  
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Owens  
David D. Pollard  
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Pollard  
Mr. Billy J. Ponder, Jr.  
Mrs. Sam M. Brand  
Jon Post  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McDonald  
Mrs. Essie Preston  
Elsie M. Curtis  
Joseph Priddy  
Bill & Rickey Moore  
Miss Ruby Puckett  
Friendship S.S. Class, Valley Park  
Mrs. Glenda Pugh  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
Mrs. J. J. Pugh  
Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Evans  
John Rachford  
Dr. & Mrs. Wm. F. Everett  
Mrs. Shelby P. Regan  
Mrs. Clyde Stamps

(To be continued)

### HONORS

Cecil Price Alexander  
Cecil Price Alexander Group, FBC  
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Dakin  
Mrs. Leona D. Dannenberg  
Mrs. Shirley Edmondson  
Mrs. C. W. Edmondson  
Rev. & Mrs. Charles Fowler  
Mr. & Mrs. R. S. Love  
Mr. Floyd Griffin  
The Koloa Springs Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Heaton  
Becky & Hank Peebles  
Miss Christine Hollis  
Mrs. Pattie M. Norris  
Mrs. Sue Wiggins  
Mrs. Shirley Horton, Jr.  
Mrs. D. V. Ferrell  
Miss Sara Rollins Lewis  
Mrs. D. V. Ferrell  
Mr. & Mrs. P. C. Renshaw  
Frances T. Bryant  
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Sullivan  
Mrs. D. V. Ferrell  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Tutor  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Coats  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Vasson  
WMU, South Corinth  
Dr. Frank Warnock  
Mrs. Osborn Ishee

### WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST TRUSTEES



Dr. Jim Futral  
Pastor, Broadmoor  
Baptist Church  
Jackson, Miss.



Gary O. Parker, III  
President, Trustmark  
National Bank  
Magee, Miss.

### MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY FOR OUR HOLIDAY FUND

OUR GOAL	\$255,000.00
GIVEN THROUGH 12/10/86	\$ 86,051.70
NEEDED TO REACH GOAL	\$168,948.30

It is very important that we reach our Holiday Fund Goal in order to provide a modest gift to children at Christmas and to help fund our annual food and milk budget for the year.

At any one given time we have a maximum of 242 children at our six locations. Each of the past three years we have ministered to 570-610 different boys and girls.

**"MISSISSIPPI'S LARGEST FAMILY"**  
**DEPENDS EXCLUSIVELY**  
**ON YOUR GENEROSITY**



# Baptist Record

## Abuse costs U.S. billions

Abuse of alcohol and other drugs costs money as well as lives.

Measured in terms of costliness in the American workplace, alcohol and drug abuse in 1985 cost more than \$115 billion in reduced productivity and lost employment, according to

estimates compiled by the Research Triangle Institute.

Alcohol abuse accounted for \$78 billion of that total, while abuse of other drugs cost more than \$37 billion. — USA Today

## Children's prayers

# From hole in wall to "sweet home"

By Robert O'Brien

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (BP) — Keith and Terry Blakley felt a powerful attraction to the three little boys shivering in the late-night air on the city street on South Africa's cape.

The children, huddled against a wall eating scraps from a nearby hamburger stand, looked like so many other children the two missionaries had seen on the streets. "We started to pass, but we couldn't," Keith says. "We felt a strong leading of God to stop and talk to them."

The boys spoke poor English, but the Blakleys learned they had no home and nowhere to sleep but the street.

A few blocks away, Chelsea Blakley, then 2 years old, and Angela Blakley, then 4, were with their babysitter, tucked warmly and safely in their beds, with not a care in the world — or so their parents thought.

Keith and Terry, after an exhausting day of work, had gone out for the evening to relax and spend a little time together. They didn't need something else to worry about, especially three little African boys with lice-infested, matted hair and dirty, ragged clothing.

But the next thing they knew they had a bathtub full of boys at their home near the University of Cape Town, where the two Southern Baptist missionaries do Baptist student work. While he liberally applied hot water, soap, and disinfectant, she took the babysitter home.

"I'm not surprised you brought those three home tonight," the babysitter said. "Angela and Chelsea prayed before they went to sleep that God would take care of the orphans and give them a place to live."

The Blakleys pondered "about what God was up to" as the three boys, wearing Keith's T-shirts, ate ravenously and then fell into a deep sleep.

The next morning the house rang with the shrill cries of two little girls jumping up and down and squealing: "God answered our prayer! God answered our prayer!"

But God had only begun a series of answers which would lead to the miracle of "Khayamnandi" (Ky-ahm-nahn-dee).

After a frustrating day on the telephone, Terry realized no childcare facilities existed for these boys or thousands of other homeless black children who wander the streets as refugees from disrupted family units in South Africa's troubled black townships.

"It's a shame," one person explained. "There's a 'bottomless pit' of kids in the streets, and we have nothing for them. We wish we could help." A temporary home for "coloreds," South Africa's term for people of mixed race, agreed to shelter the trio for awhile but soon put them back on the street.

"I really became so disturbed I cried out to God to find some way to help these kids who suffer from violence, hunger, and disease," Mrs. Blakley says. Then one day, she saw the three boys' photo in a local newspaper and an article on the "Hole in the Wall Gang."

Rose McKenna, a local white Christian woman, had found the boys and others living in a hole in a canal wall and learned what Mrs. Blakley had — no help existed. So she took the story to the newspaper, *The Argus*.

Terry Blakley traced down McKenna, and they talked about what could be done. Soon a committee formed, including students from the University of Cape Town's Baptist Student Union, who took the children as a mission project.

"We had no power and no money, only prayer, to find a home for these boys," Mrs. Blakley says. So they prayed.

Within days, a government agency donated an old barracks in the black township of Langa.

It was one of a group of old buildings vandals had turned into a pile of rubble. But it was a beginning.

"We thanked the Father for giving that to us," Mrs. Blakley says. "All we could do was pray and ask him to make this heavily damaged building into a home for these boys."

Soon, a white government official talked to them about their plight and took a personal interest. A couple of days later, he said, "I've found a construction company which will renovate the building for free."

Excited by this answer to prayer, the committee thanked God for what he had done. Now, they asked, what about the furnishings, supplies, and funds?

By the time they moved into the humble but renovated building six weeks later, donations from the community had provided enough food, clothing, supplies, furniture, and funds to get under way and hire some help.

"Ah, this is going to be a 'khayamnandi' ('sweet home' in the Xhosa language)," exclaimed a black Salvation Army captain, who teaches literacy at the home. So it became "Khayamnandi," the "Sweet Home" for 33 boys from the streets and the only facility for black children in South Africa's Western Province, which has a population of more than 800,000 blacks.

But the sweet home retained a bitter tinge. How would it survive?

The committee had assumed the Salvation Army, which sat on the committee, would take it over. That didn't develop.

"God, what can we do?" the committee prayed.

That's when South Africa's Western Province Baptist Association agreed to run it and Southern Baptists gave \$45,000 in start-up funds from world hunger contributions. The money, equal to more than 100,000 South African

dollars, gave Khayamnandi a strong start and resulted in another story in *The Argus*.

Soon, workers at the home began to realize some of the boys in their care had great potential for leadership. As the word spread, it reached Karin Steven, one of five Anglican women from Good Shepherd Church in Kirstenbosch who meet regularly for prayer.

The five white women, grieved over the needs of black children and South Africa's future, had prayed for four months that God "would raise up leaders in the biblical tradition of Daniel from among black youth and inspire them to minister to their people."

"We can go to trouble spots to minister, but it's better for people to rise up among themselves and become the voice of God," she says. "I was beside myself when I learned about Khayamnandi and what it's doing for the boys."

It's a miracle of God, which shows what he can do when we are obedient and pray.

"You never think of yourself as part of something so global," she says of the Southern Baptist gift from America.

"God's plan is so fantastic. It seems to dovetail as people all over the world pray," she continues. "We have since zoomed in more than ever on our prayer for the young Daniels."

The Blakleys and South African Baptists know the problems have only begun for Khayamnandi. Southern Baptists granted the start-up funds if Western Province Association would take full financial responsibility by mid-1987. Now, the prayer centers around where the hard-pressed association will find the money in an economy made worse by the world's economic sanctions.

"The association gulped hard and said, 'Yes, in faith, we'll do this,'" Mrs. Blakley says.

They'll need a lot of faith — as much faith as two little girls named Angela and Chelsea, whose prayers started all this in the first place.

Robert O'Brien writes for the FMB.

A Cape Town newspaper called these boys the "Hole in the Wall Gang" after they were found, hungry and ragged, living in a hole in a canal wall on South Africa's cape. The boys, now well-fed and clothed, recreated the scene for a photographer. They and 27 other black children now live in Khayamnandi, a Baptist home for black South African street children. The boys once had to steal and beg to survive. Though they sometimes fall back into old habits, they've begun to understand what love is all about. One boy recently called a meeting after another got into trouble. "We have got a home to live in for the first time," he told them. "We've got food and people to care about us. We've got to stop this (mischief) to show these people that we appreciate what they are doing." (BP) Photo by Warren Johnson.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

Baptist Record

005-DTM CARRIER ROUTE 39  
291 12-18 00  
SO BAPT HIS SOCIETY  
SUITE 400  
901 COMMERCE ST  
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

Dec 1986

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205